

Hafa Adai!

Small batch of stimulus checks out on Friday. PAGE 2

In House's tie-breaker rule dispute, Villagomez wonders: Why now? PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



INCREASED COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Division of Youth Services staff and guests pose with the division's new vehicles at the Kagman Community Center yesterday. Given the nature of their work and the requirement to intervene in critical situations involving children and families, quick response and staff mobility is critical.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 74

THURSDAY APRIL 15, 2021

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AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 14, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech

Initiated:	17,413
Fully Vaccinated:	12,828

Moderna

Initiated:	2,490
Fully Vaccinated:	1,935

Janssen

Fully vaccinated:	49
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GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,847	4	7,851
Recovered	7,675	3	7,678
Active	33	4	37
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			146,492

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	160	1	161
Traced via Travel Screening	124	1	125
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			29

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CHCC 'pauses' use of J&J vaccine

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the recommendation of U.S. health authorities, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force has suspended the use of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Additionally, CHCC announced that they won't be moving forward with administering the Janssen vaccine for the elderly population—60

years and older—this Saturday at the System of Care in San Antonio. Instead, they will be using the Moderna

See CHCC on Page 4

US recommends 'pause' for J&J shots

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. on Tuesday recommended a "pause" in use of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to investigate reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots, setting off a chain reaction worldwide and dealing a setback to the global vaccination campaign.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration announced that they were looking into unusual clots in six women

See J&J on Page 4



In this Thursday, April 8, 2021 file photo, the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine sits on a table at a pop up vaccinations site at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center, in the Staten Island borough of New York.

Spicy Thai manager gets 3-year probation

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spicy Thai restaurant manager and executive assistant Jeane Bracken was sentenced yesterday to three years of proba-

tion on a count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine.

In addition to her sentence, Bracken was also ordered to pay a fine of \$3,000 no later than April 16 and an assess-

ment fee of \$100.

In the sentence she handed down yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona said that Bracken will be subjected

See SPICY on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Marianas Meat believes that agriculture will strengthen the CNMI's economic resilience.

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NATION

Prosecutors will soon decide whether to charge a police officer who shot dead a Black man.

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ASIA

The Philippine government has summoned the Chinese ambassador over a reef dispute.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) gestures during an interview at his office yesterday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Local

Villagomez open to talks on ARPA expenditure plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that he is open to any discussion with the Torres-Palacios administration regarding the expenditure plan for the estimated \$515 million that's allocated to the CNMI under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Villagomez said in an interview there's no discussion yet about the expenditure plan, but that he and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres "did touch base" sometime last week and that Torres told him that he would reach out to him regarding the spending plan.

"But beyond that, nothing yet," he said.

Torres stated last Friday he wants to talk with the Legisla-

ture on the ARPA expenditure plan, which he described as very complex. Torres said his administration is still working on the plan and that he needs to bring in the Legislature.

Villagomez pointed out that, absent House Bill 22-33, Torres is still the expenditure authority on the ARPA money.

House Bill 22-33, which is now with the Senate, seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the ARPA money. Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is the principal author of the legislation.

Villagomez said the last time he spoke to one of the senators, House Bill 22-33 was referred to the Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

"It is transmitted. We did pass it," he said.

Small batch of stimulus checks out on Friday

The Department of Finance is releasing small batch of the third stimulus checks tomorrow, Friday, according to Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for an update, Atalig said that, according to the director of the Division of Revenue and Taxation, they are issuing those that have frozen accounts at banks. Atalig said other checks were reissued due to closed bank accounts and issues with their bank information so their direct deposits were rejected.

He said he is still trying to get information as to the total amount and number of taxpayers in that small batch.

"For those that we corrected or where taxpayers updated their information, we are releasing their stimulus," the secretary said.

Atalig encourages taxpayers who have not gotten their paper checks yet to check their postal boxes soon. "Again, we do not have control of when the post office will deliver to their boxes and the Post Office usually say that it takes about a week to get through all mail, not just the stimulus," he said.

Atalig earlier disclosed that the payments of stimulus to over 31,000 taxpayers, either via direct deposit or paper checks, went out as planned last Monday.

About 10,500 taxpayers opted to receive their stimulus payments via direct deposit. That's for a total of about \$26 million.

Atalig said over 21,000 stimulus checks, totaling about \$40 million, were processed over the weekend and delivered to the post office. (Ferdie de la Torre)

DYS gets 5 new cars to aid in operations

The Division of Youth Services of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs recently bought five new vehicles to help its staff better respond to interventions and improve its community outreach.

The new vehicles—five CX5 Mazda SUVs—were turned over to DYS yesterday at the Kagman Community Center and presented to the public.

After months of contractual and procurement procedures and securing funding through federal grants, DYS was able to secure the fleet of vehicles—hoping to "meet our action plan and services for the families," said DYS administrator Vivian Sablan.

In addition to an after-school program for children and parent education classes, DYS services include responding to cases of child abuse, neglect, and juvenile delinquency, and monitoring court order conditions for juveniles under the Juvenile Probation Unit.

"The cars will serve as an additional resource. It makes sure that we not only meet our services but we [also] increase our number of services. Often times, transportation becomes a major obstacle, so definitely this is a really big help that will allow our staff to reach out to the families that need our assistance out there in the community," Sablan added. (Joshua Santos)

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IN HOUSE'S TIE-BREAKER RULE DISPUTE

Villagomez wonders: Why now?

The tie-breaker rule of the House of Representative has been on its books for at least the past two legislatures, so House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) wonders why the Republican lawmakers of the minority bloc are now raising questions about its constitutionality.

"As far as we see it, we're not wrong," said Villagomez yesterday when asked for comments about Attorney General Edward Manibusan's opinion regarding the House of Representatives' tie-breaker rule.

Villagomez questioned why the minority bloc did not complain about the rule when they were still the majority in the House.

The speaker said the Republicans pretty much had the numbers to say what the rules are going to be and they were fine with it, but now when the time came when they're the minority it's now unconstitutional, he added.

In his opinion issued last Friday, Manibusan determined that the House's tie-breaker rule that allows the speaker to vote twice in the event of a tie contravenes the CNMI Constitution's provision on the minimum vote requirement.

Manibusan also recommended that a certified question petition to the CNMI Supreme Court to resolve the dispute is a recourse that may be explored.

Manibusan issued the opinion after nine Republican representatives and one independent representative sought last March 25 his legal opinion on Article II Section 3 of the NMI Constitution pertaining to the principle of "one representative, one vote."

Last March 19, Villagomez had to exercise his authority to break a 10-10 tie to pass a bill that mandates legislative appropriation for the estimated \$515-million Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund that will be allocated to the CNMI.

Villagomez said yesterday that he will look into the AG's opinion as he has not seen it until that morning from newspapers. The speaker said he might need to again seek le-

gal clarity from House's legal counsel Joseph Taijeron.

He said when they went about the issue, Taijeron ad-

vised that it's constitutional.

Villagomez said they did discuss the tie-breaker rule with the majority bloc (Demo-

crats) prior to the House's session where he did vote twice.

As to Manibusan's recom-

mendation to bring a certified question petition, Villagomez said if lawmakers want to go that way, they will go that way. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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CHCC hosts virtual training for Palau health advisory council

As part of regional behavioral health workforce development, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hosted a six-hour virtual Mental Health First Aid certification training on April 8, 2021, for 11 members of the Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

Community Guidance Center's Kimberly Mendiola and Kimberly Seman Tudela led the training, with the technical assistance of Lupe Camacho and Becky Mettao. The training was funded through support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Healthy Transitions grant and the System of Care grants.

The training covered early signs and symptoms, worsening signs and symptoms, crisis signs and symptoms, the mental health first aid action plan, and self-care for the mental health first aider. Part of the training included topics on suicide, non-suicidal self-injury, and psychosis. The participants worked



Community Guidance Center's Kimberly Seman Tudela and Kimberly Mendiola lead the virtual Mental Health First Aid certification training on April 8, 2021, for the Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

on identifying signs and symptoms of appropriate mental health care and applying the action plan dur-

ing non-crisis and crisis situations. To date, the Community Guidance Center has certified 1,069 individu-

als in the CNMI, now including regional partners from Palau, in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

The Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Council oversees planning and implementation of mental health and substance abuse block grants in the Republic of Palau.



The 11 members of the Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

als in the CNMI, now including regional partners from Palau, in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

The Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Council oversees planning and implementation of mental health and substance abuse block grants in the Republic of Palau.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based public education

program that removes the unease and apprehension out of starting conversations about mental health and substance use challenges by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches individuals to safely and responsibly identify and address warning signs and symptoms of a potential mental health or substance use disorder. (PR)

been tested in the CNMI, according to Villagomez. This includes the modified quarantine where residents who have been vaccinated in the CNMI go off island and then return on island and have the choice to stay in a government facility or quarantine at home.

Additionally, the implementation of the first and fifth day on arrival testing is a "safety net," according to Villagomez.

"We're communicating with the airlines, with the travel agents, as well as the hotels on island [and] with MVA on making sure that they know that the plan is understood and would be adhered," said Villagomez.

Not all hotels will be part of the tourism bubble program. Villagomez said there will be specific hotels only but there won't be a limit on how many tourists will come to the CNMI.

It was learned that the mandatory health declaration form will help the task force and CHCC plan ahead with the mandatory quarantine.

Villagomez said at the moment, there are no talks about additional quarantine to accommodate all inbound travelers.

ment, a maximum fine of \$1 million, a maximum three-year term of supervised release, and a special \$100 penalty assessment.

Both Bracken and her co-defendant, Robert Wallace, were charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

Wallace, who was sentenced on April 7, was sentenced to two years' probation and was ordered to pay a special assessment fee of \$100 and a fine in the amount of \$2,000 at \$200 a month.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back on Oct. 21, 2020, CNMI authorities came upon a "suspicious" parcel mailed to a private CNMI mailbox. It was later uncovered that the parcel contained cocaine and was ordered by Bracken.

J&J

From Page 1

between the ages of 18 and 48. One person died.

The acting FDA commissioner expected the pause to last only a matter of days. But the decision triggered swift action in Europe and elsewhere as the drugmaker, regulators and providers moved to halt the use of the J&J vaccine, at least for now.

J&J said in a statement that it was aware of the reports of blood clots, but that no link to its vaccine had been established. However, the company said late Tuesday it would delay the rollout of its vaccine in Europe and pause new vaccinations in its trials that are still underway until it can update its guidance on how to proceed.

Hundreds of thousands of doses were due to arrive in European countries, where vaccinations have been plagued by supply shortages, logistical problems and concerns over

blood clots in a small number of people who received the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is not yet cleared for use in the U.S.

Any slowdown in the dissemination of the shots could have broad implications for the global vaccination effort. The J&J vaccine held immense promise because its single-dose regimen and relatively simple storage requirements would make it easier to use, especially in less affluent countries.

The clots, which happened six to 13 days after vaccination in veins that drain blood from the brain, occurred together with low platelets, the fragments in blood that normally form clots.

More than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been given in the U.S., the vast majority with no or mild side effects.

"We know there are plenty of critics who say, 'Why? It's just a couple of cases. Why don't we just move along?'" said Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's vaccine center.

and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. Until the CDC and FDA announce that it is safe to use the Janssen vaccine again, CHCC will only be administering the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Bautista added.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña commends CDC and FDA for "acting quickly and decisively." Muña says their decision proves that their commitment to safety is a priority.

"We share that commitment and that is why we immediately paused the use of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines," said Muña. She added that CHCC, the administration, and the task force are in constant communication with CDC and FDA to get the latest updates on all the vaccines.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that, while there are no cases of blood clots reported in the CNMI, the administration and CHCC continue to trust federal and local public health officials. Torres also commends Muña and public health officials for monitoring the situation closely and following the recommendation of

He noted past episodes when health problems surfaced in people who got new vaccines, such as the debut of the polio vaccine in 1955 and a vaccination campaign against a new form of flu in 1976.

When medical countermeasures injure people in the United States, "we don't have a lot of tolerance for that, and that tends to undermine vaccine confidence," Marks said. "So we simply have to do whatever we can to minimize or eliminate issues that might be considered friendly fire."

The decision immediately upended some vaccine programs around the U.S.: In Atlanta, a mass vaccination event for public school teachers that was to have used the J&J vaccine was scrapped. St. Louis health officials said they would reach out to 1,800 people who got the shots to warn them of potential health issues. And in Montana, two colleges that had hoped to vaccinate students with J&J doses before they head home for the summer canceled clinics.

CDC and FDA.

"We will continue to trust in our federal and local public health officials throughout our vaccine rollout as they remain an important tool in protecting our community from serious illnesses. We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated through the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which remain available here in the CNMI," said Torres.

One traveler test positive for COVID-19

CHCC announced yesterday that another traveler has tested positive for COVID-19, raising the CNMI's cumulative total to 161.

CHCC says the individual was identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth day testing. The individual has been safely in quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring.

The CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight.

TOURISTS

From Page 1

of five days. After that, the tourist will be released to their hotels and will not be on their own upon arrival.

Right now, the CNMI is working hard to speed up the vaccination process as a means for the CNMI population to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19. That means vaccinating a high number of CNMI residents enough to create indirect protection for those who are unvaccinated.

According to Villagomez, the plan to restart the tourism industry is being put together by the task force, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. "It's actually a setup that's put together by the task force, MVA, CPA, and CHCC. ... It's a controlled environment; it's not an open tourism arrival. ... There are measures that that would protect the safety of the community as well as the safety of the tourists," said Villagomez.

There have already been many typed of implementations that have

SPICY

From Page 1

to a search of all personal devices and other electronic communications or data storage devices at any given time without a warrant for the first year of her probation. If she complies, the court shall remove this condition.

In addition, the court ordered Bracken to disclose all online account information including user names and passwords.

Back in December 2020, Bracken pleaded guilty one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute a schedule II-controlled substance.

Originally, if tried in court, the maximum sentence for the charge would have been 20 years imprison-

A weekly promotional flyer for Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store. The top features a large red megaphone icon with the text 'THIS WEEK'S BIG SALE' and 'APRIL 16-22'. To the right, a blue oval says 'WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS'. The left side shows a large image of a tan corner sofa with storage. Below it are various items for sale: a brown corner sofa, a white wire shelving unit, a bicycle, a purple children's bike, a rug, a rice cooker, a wok, a blender, a microwave, a dressing table, and a corner sofa with storage. The right side lists food items with price tags: Certified Angus Beef Chuck Steak (\$5.99/lb), Romaine Hearts 3 pack (\$3.79), President Pub Cheese (\$4.49), Laura Chenel Goat Cheese Log 8 oz (\$5.99), Columbus Uncured Pepperoni 4 oz (\$4.49), Oatly Non Dairy Ice Creams 1 pint (\$5.99), Field Roast Plant Based Proteins (\$3.99 each), Soft Pretzels (\$2.99), Joyva Sesame Tahini 15 oz (\$5.99), S&W Pinto Chili Beans or Cannellini Beans 15 oz (99¢), and Jumbo Sesame Tahini (\$5.99). A 'Rewards' logo is on the bottom left. The bottom features sections for 'DOUBLE POINTS OF THE WEEK!', 'NOT YET A MEMBER? SIGN UP! IT'S FREE!', and a 'Food Stamp' graphic. The bottom right has social media links and a phone number.

DFEMS to launch emergency academy to recruit new firemen

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and

Emergency Medical Services is preparing to launch an emergency Fire Academy to make up for the loss of nine fire-

fighters who were terminated for refusing to get vaccinated.

According to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola,

the department and the administration will be starting the academy as soon as possible.

Saipan Tribune learned that

the target date for the start of the academy is June and the official announcement to begin applying should be posted on the Office of Personnel Management's page next month. However, the target dates still remain tentative.

With the recent loss of nine firefighters, who were sacked after refusing to be vaccinated against COVID-19, Mendiola said the department only has 114 personnel right now and is stretched thin.

"We're already stretched thin, so what we did was we deployed personnel from Rota and Tinian to augment the shortage. We [need] to launch an emergency Academy and hopefully we can fill these positions as soon as possible," he said.

In addition, the department will also be working with the Northern Marianas College so applicants can satisfy one of the requirements, which is passing English 101.

"[Applicants] still have to go through NMC and get their basic English 101 certification in order to be a part of this academy. We're working directly with NMC on how soon we can launch this. We're also working directly with our training section on what's the criteria, what's the standards, and how soon we can get this up and running," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, of the initial 23 individuals who signed a petition against the mandatory vaccination, nine were issued termination notices last Monday effective immediately for continuing to defy a directive to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The petition originally started off with 23 individuals but when the department put them on administrative leave, 14 of the 23 consulted with family members who convinced them to be vaccinated.



From left, Marpac beverage sales manager James Lee, resident manager Guy Pudney, Ohala Foundation board member Ed Arriola, and consumer manager Tom Basa Jr.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., or Marpac, recently donated a generous amount of beverages to the Ohala Foundation.

Foundation.

"We're grateful for the support [of] Marpac. We are in need of these items and they'll

be included in our weekly family food box distributions," said Ohala Foundation chair Phillip Mendiola-Long.

He said the foundation has already distributed food boxes to over 300 families over the course of 11 distribution events. "That comes out to over 10,000 meals given to families in need," he added.

Ohala Foundation board member Ed Arriola Jr. said that companies like Marpac "help us continue our goals and we want to thank their owners, their resident manager, Guy Pudney, and the employees of this fine company for their generosity. The assistance given to us by private sector com-

panies and non-profit groups help us to achieve our goals."

The Ohala Foundation will launching a new "It's Only .33 Cents Per Day Donation Drive," which is equal to a commitment of just \$10 per month to help feed families in need. "We need 200 people to sign up and commit to just .33 cents per day to help these families [on] Tinian. We're also in the planning stages to expand to Rota by May and Saipan by October," Long said.

Interested donors can reach out to the Foundation by visiting ohalafoundation.org or by calling (670) 433-2664. To donate, visit ohalafoundation.org/donate. (PR)

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**NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
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**Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, May 25, 2021, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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)
In the Matter)
of the Estate of) CIVIL ACTION
Luis Gangola Yul,) NO. 21-0097
Deceased)
)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Priscilla Ruth Yul has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Luis Gangola Yul, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Luis Gangola Yul, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 06, April 2021

/s/

"[Applicants] still have to go through NMC and get their basic English 101 certification in order to be a part of this academy. We're working directly with NMC on how soon we can launch this. We're also working directly with our training section on what's the criteria, what's the standards, and how soon we can get this up and running," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, of the initial 23 individuals who signed a petition against the mandatory vaccination, nine were issued termination notices last Monday effective immediately for continuing to defy a directive to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The petition originally started off with 23 individuals but when the department put them on administrative leave, 14 of the 23 consulted with family members who convinced them to be vaccinated.

Skydiving instructor pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

fine in the amount of \$2,000 at \$200 a month, with the first payment due today, April 14.

Wallace, who appeared via Zoom, was represented by lawyer Joe McDoulett.

In his sentencing memorandum, McDoulett said that Wallace's case and sentencing are inextricably tied to the related case of Jeane Bracken.

Although the two were not charged as co-defendants, they were co-conspirators in a single criminal conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

Both Wallace and Bracken have pleaded guilty and the criminal conspiracy involved a total amount of 3.468 grams of cocaine.

McDoulett said the "distribution" element was satisfied simply by Wallace's intent to deliver the cocaine to Bracken and for her, in turn, to sell a portion of the cocaine to him and others for their personal use.

McDoulett pointed out that, following Wallace's arrest, he immediately provided complete and unconditional cooperation to law enforcement. In addition, he did not minimize his conduct and did not shy away from full cooperation.

Wallace also expressed a desire to quickly accept responsibility for his actions, pleading guilty before a charging document was in the possession of the United States marshals.

Bracken, who pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to deliver on Dec. 12, 2020, was sentenced yesterday, April 14, to three years' probation. She was represented by David Banes.

SCC now accepting applications for educational scholarship

Applications are now available for the 2021 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Educational Scholarship Program. The SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee is

committed to this annual tradition to support students by defraying a portion of the cost of pursuing their postsecondary education, thus improving our local workforce and solving is-

sues impacting our community.

This year, SCC is awarding \$10,000 to students who display academic excellence, extracurricular success, leadership force, and volunteerism, pursuing careers needed in our workforce to solve problems related to the CNMI. All awards will be distributed to the following categories:

The Chamber Education Award is for Saipan, Tinian, Rota high school graduates or ongoing college residents seeking higher education at the Northern

Marianas College, Saipan.

The Pellegrino Vocational Education Award is for Saipan residents seeking further training at vocational trades institutions on or off-island.

The Innovation Award is for Saipan residents seeking education in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) or business-related fields in an off-island institution.

Applicants should complete the relevant award application based on their eligibility. Once the application is submitted,

the judging process occurs in three parts: Application Review, Essay Judging, and the Final Interview. Scholarship judges are members of the SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee.

A complete list of eligibility and requirements is outlined in the official SCC Scholarship Application on our website, www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program. Hard copies can be made available upon request.

The application deadline is

5pm on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Applicants should submit their completed documents through email to coordinator2@saipanchamber.com or in-person at the SCC Office located on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 413. Applicants are encouraged to send their materials ahead of time to ensure SCC has received all required documents.

For more information about our scholarship program, call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Wanted: Don Jr. Pangelinan Sanchez

The CNMI Department of Public Safety is seeking the public's help in locating Don Jr. Pangelinan Sanchez, who is wanted pursuant to an arrest warrant.



Sanchez

controlled substance. His cash bail is set at \$100,000.

Sanchez is described as 5'8" tall and weighs 180 lbs.

If you or anyone you know has any information in regards to Sanchez, we encourage you to call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. (PR)

Sanchez, 38, is wanted by authorities for the charges of receiving stolen property, (failure to complete) firearms owner identification requirement, removal of a firearm serial number, possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking of a

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude quake in Merizo, Guam

At 3:20am on April 14, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 190 kilometers southwest of Merizo, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or adviso-

ries that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Northern Guam SWCD board meeting set

The Northern Guam Soil and

■ Passcode: 963266.

All government, nongovernment organization partners and northern Guam farmers and ranchers are cordially invited to attend. Contact Rochelle for more information, at ngswcd.northernguam@gmail.com. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 032

Opening Date: April 5, 2021 • Closing Date: April 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Safety Office Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 037

Opening Date: April 1, 2021 • Closing Date: April 22, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Technician: Mechanic
DEPARTMENT:	Power Generation Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$22,193.60 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Four (4)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Power Generation Division.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility;
- Provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures;
- Provide assistance in monitoring and complying with regulatory compliance; operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility;
- Identifies issues and operational concerns;
- Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units.
- Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels.
- Performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions;
- Receives trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates.
- Initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas;
- Analyzes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders, data, and prepares reports;
- Perform reconditioning of used parts;
- Perform alignment of pumps and motors at auxiliary sites; Bending, cutting, grinding and fabricating various types of materials;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a Mechanic or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience performing mechanic duties on 1500 HP or larger diesel prime mover engines and associated auxiliary units. Experience on Mitsubishi MAN, EMD, Cummins and/or Nordberg diesel engines desired but not required.

Knowledge of: Mechanical principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Mathematical concepts; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices;

Skills in: Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work of various plant systems; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining historical data; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Physical Demands:

- Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending.
- Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles.
- Work primarily inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently.
- Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

After the pandemic, outdoor dining and 'slow streets' should live on

Here's one pandemic change that should become a permanent fixture in the urban landscape: Let's keep the "slow streets," parklets, temporary bike lanes and outdoor dining areas that have sprung up in cities across the country, rather than return every inch of asphalt to motor vehicles.

One of the bright spots of the last year has been cities' willingness to swiftly transform the public realm into open-air spaces that can be used by people to safely gather, exercise and dine with social distancing.

San Francisco, Oakland, California, and many other cities launched slow-streets programs to close some routes to through traffic so people could bike, walk and play in the roadways without fear of getting hit by a speeding car. In Los Angeles, the city added 50 miles of slow streets in 30 neighborhoods. There was so much more demand from neighborhood groups than funding to run the program that the Department of Transportation had to stop adding new routes.

New York City, Boston and Austin, Texas, went further, claiming street space for temporary protected bike lanes in response to the huge boom in bicycle sales and demand for safer cycling routes. Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, closed off portions of roads near parks and lakes so people could safely enjoy the outdoors.

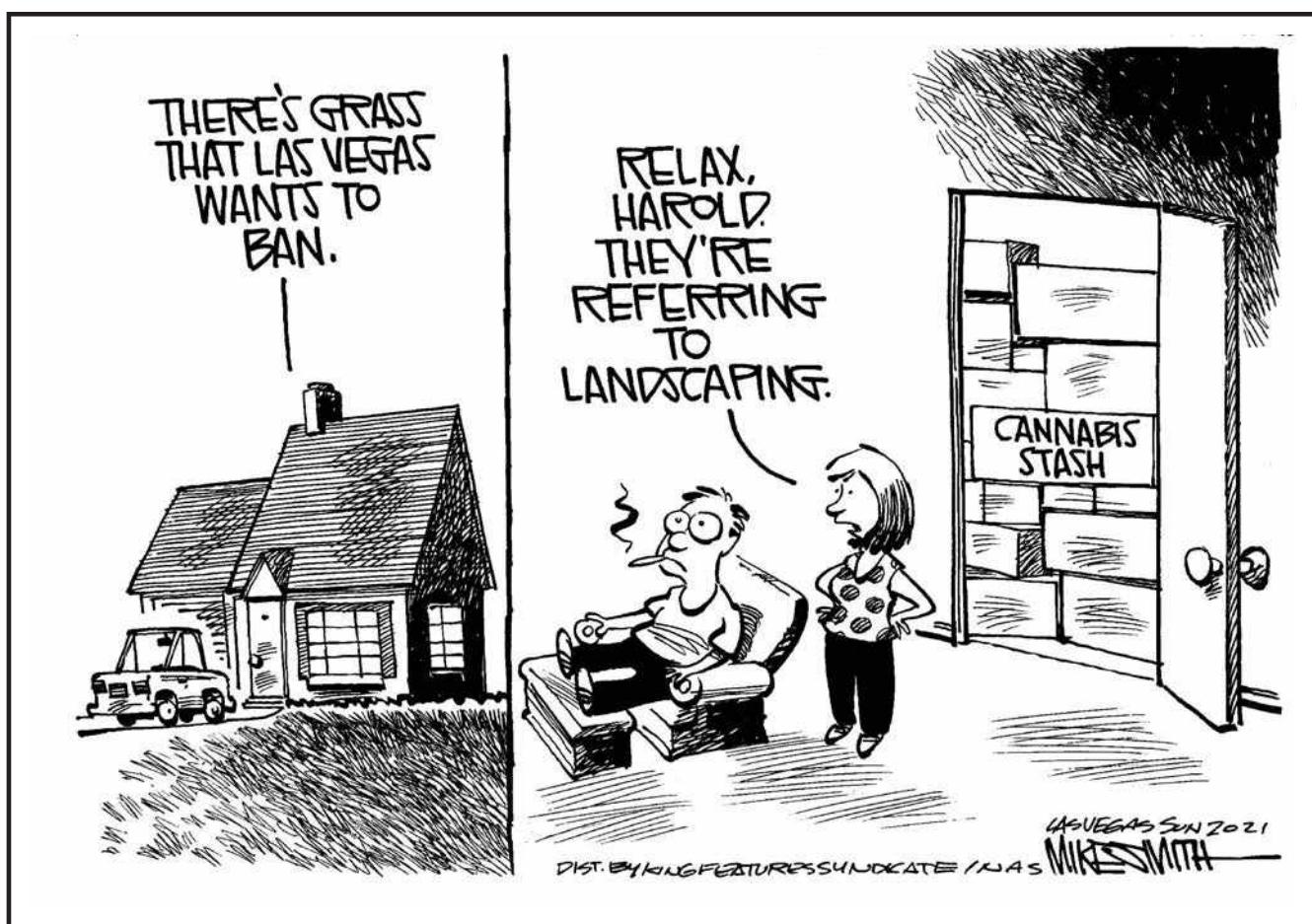
And many cities chose to turn curbside parking spaces and sidewalks into alfresco dining spots so restaurants—still operating under COVID limitations on indoor dining—could stay open. Some cities closed off blocks of streets so restaurants and cafes could have even more space for tables.

Sure, it was a pretty easy decision to cordon off some streets and parking spaces in the first months of the pandemic, when many businesses were shuttered, commercial districts looked like ghost towns and people were stuck at home, trying to flatten the curve. But now, as life returns to some semblance of normality with traffic and commerce on the rise, too many cities are planning to revert to the old car-centric way of managing public spaces.

A survey of 130 mayors across the country by Boston University found that although many cities repurposed public spaces during the pandemic, few mayors intend to make the changes permanent. There was some interest in continuing alfresco dining, with a little over one-third of mayors saying they would keep those changes in place.

But limiting traffic on roads for safe walking and biking, or closing street lanes for recreation? Most mayors said those changes would not be made permanent, even though two-thirds of mayors said they expect residents will walk and bike more frequently after COVID-19 is under control. So, where are all those people supposed to

See AFTER on Next Page



Instead of rental vouchers, give people a shot at owning a home

President Joe Biden has consistently stressed the need to address the racial inequity that plagues America. Nowhere is this inequity more pronounced than the wealth gap. The typical Black family has one-eighth of the net worth of white households. Latinos have less than a fifth.

Yet most of the \$640 billion housing plan Biden proposed during the campaign will do nothing to help close the wealth gap. That's because he's following the same well-worn path walked by so many well-intentioned housing advocates before him. His housing plan is focused on rental housing, including the construction of more subsidized apartments and tripling the availability of rent vouchers, which pay landlords a portion of the monthly rent so tenants pay less.

Instead, Biden and his people should focus more on helping people buy a home—a less costly approach than one might think and in many ways less expensive than most rental programs.

To Biden's credit, his plan did include a homeownership component: a \$15,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers. The administration has suggested that this credit could be advanced so it would be usable at the time of purchase, but there are no details and it's not clear how that would work.

There is a simpler way to increase access to homeownership: a homeownership voucher.

Homeownership's importance to wealth building is well understood. For the majority of Americans, their wealth is held in their homes. A 2015 report released by Brandeis University's Institute for Assets & Social Policy shows that the homeownership gap is the most significant driver of the racial wealth gap and more significant than unequal incomes and access to higher education. The Black-white homeownership gap is worse today than it was in 1968, the year the Fair Housing Act was passed, yet America spends little to help increase homeownership among those who have been left behind.

The only significant federal program that specifically helps lower-income households purchase their first home is the FHA mortgage insurance program, with a current annual budget of about \$3 billion. We spend 13 times that amount—\$39 billion a year—on rent vouchers.

But rent vouchers, though an important social safety net, can get expensive; the average beneficiary uses it for six years and the average monthly subsidy is \$768, which adds up to about \$55,000. Yet rent vouchers accomplish nothing for people who want to own their own housing and avoid having a landlord and annual rent increases.

A homeownership voucher program would help people of color and low-income households raise a down payment suffi-

By MIKE LOFTIN
Los Angeles Times

Mike Loftin, a visiting fellow at the Urban Institute, is chief executive of the nonprofit organization Homewise.



cient to get an affordable, safe mortgage—and get a jump-start in building equity. In the long-run, it would be less expensive than paying a portion of someone's rent, month after month, for years on end.

Homeownership vouchers could have a major impact. A one-time national investment of \$39 billion (the same amount spent annually on rent vouchers) could provide a \$15,000 voucher to 2.6 million new home buyers—a population large enough to increase the Black homeownership rate from 42% to around 60%, substantially narrowing the Black-white homeownership gap.

While \$15,000 may not be enough to help a home buyer in expensive housing markets on the coasts, it would work in most parts of the country where housing costs are lower. And this amount could be adjusted for higher-priced markets, just as rent vouchers are.

Some caution is warranted here. As shown during the mortgage lending crisis, making home loans available without regard to the borrower's ability to make the payments can cause real damage. But when home buyer assistance is provided together with education and coaching that help buyers reduce consumer debt, improve their credit and build a savings habit, these buyers can be successful over the long term and able to weather the curveballs life can throw. For example, the over-30-day delinquency rate of homeowners assisted by Homewise is less than 2.5%—much lower than home buyers who did not benefit from the same kind of support.

What is needed is a network of organizations with a track record of serving communities of color—organizations that can help individual home buyers address specific barriers to buying a home. The good news is that hundreds of these organizations already exist, whether community development financial institutions, state housing finance agencies or affordable housing nonprofit groups.

A homeownership voucher is no silver bullet. But if used right, it can lower the barriers that prevent many rent-paying Americans from buying a home and building equity in an asset. Only then will we begin to level the playing field for all.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The next generation can save democracy globally—but cannot go it alone

By LAUREN MEADOWS and BENJAMIN PRESS

THE FULCRUM

The future of global democracy is startlingly uncertain. Nearly 70 percent of countries exhibited signs of democratic decline last year, The Economist Intelligence Unit has concluded, while Freedom House's newest annual "Freedom in the World" report finds a decline in global freedom for a 15th consecutive year. And events of the past few months—from the attempted insurrection in the United States to a military coup in Myanmar—underscore the universality of democracy's present struggle.

As consolidated and fledgling democracies alike flounder, concern over the future of democracy has become a global topic of conversation, with some analysts and political leaders looking to younger generations for solutions to democracy's ills. But young peoples' mixed views on democracy, combined with the grim realities of any post-pandemic economic recovery, call into question optimistic narratives about a new generation's capacity for democratic renovation.

Recent data on youth involvement in politics present a complicated picture. Last year's presidential election, for example, saw record-breaking youth turnout: More than half of eligible Americans younger than 30 cast a ballot—an increase of 10 percentage points from 2016 and the highest rate of youth participation in nearly 50 years. In the 2019 European elections, record turnout was driven by a surge in participation by young people, with voters younger than 25 registering a 14-point turnout increase from 2014. South Korea saw its best turnout since 1992 in the National Assembly elections, bolstered by enthusiasm from young voters.

Beyond the ballot box, youth have also taken to the streets to make their voices heard, fueling the most significant protest wave in the last half-century. Young people led protests against long-standing economic inequality in Chile, against police brutality in Nigeria, against corruption in Lebanon and against endemic youth unemployment in Tunisia.

Youth political participation in many democracies is indeed on the rise, and cross-national surveys highlight high levels of optimism among young adults about their capacity to achieve positive social change. But that doesn't mean these people are inherently pro-democracy. In fact, many are doubting the ability of their democracies to deliver.

Today's young people are more dissatisfied with their democracies' performance than older people were when they were young. In Western Europe and Latin America, for example, a recent Cambridge University study found that, that while Baby Boomers started off relatively satisfied with democratic performance and became even more so, millennials' levels of satisfaction started out lower and have worsened.

Two additional factors bode ill for the notion that young adult political participation could be democracy's saving grace.

First, in the wake of the global pandemic, the economic outlook

AFTER

From Page 8

walk and bike safely?

That's a missed opportunity. Even before the pandemic, there was a growing recognition that public spaces are too oriented toward cars, and that's created a vicious cycle. It hurts the quality of life in neighborhoods by making residents feel unsafe and uninspired to walk, bicycle or take transit. It discourages people from getting out of their cars, which makes it harder to cut the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change.

The pandemic showed us what's possible. We can take away street lanes and parking spots to create lively, communal open spaces. We can dine outside, under the stars. We can walk, bike and scooter more safely. We can allow kids to ride and play in the public realm with confidence. Let's not roll back progress toward safer, healthier cities.

for millennials and their Generation Z counterparts remains dismal.

Youth unemployment rates are high and on the rise across the world, and the effects of the Covid-related recession are likely to be felt for at least the next decade. Furthermore, economists project that a bifurcated—or K-shaped—post-Covid recovery may be the most realistic expectation: Middle-income, white-collar workers may fare relatively well while younger people, who are more likely to have less secure jobs in industries such as tourism and hospitality, may be left behind.

Second, many young people hold troubling views about the necessity of "strong leaders"—either on the left or the right—to bring about political change.

Far-right political organizations such as the Jobbik Party in Hungary, the AfD in Germany and Greece's Golden Dawn have indeed benefited from surprising levels of youth support. What's more, the Cambridge report finds that several countries—including Brazil, Bolivia and Hungary, which have all elected illiberal populist leaders—have seen short-term increases in youth satisfaction with their governments.

Youth disillusionment with the mainstream democratic order is contributing to a search for alternatives, illiberal or not. If democracy further fails to deliver, this pro-populist strain could grow over time.

It's difficult to overstate the significance of this forecast: In consolidated democracies such as the United States and Great Britain, where democratic dissatisfaction is strongly correlated with high levels of economic inequality, an unequal pace of recovery may foment disillusionment. Young people who are already disenchanted with democracy may grow more dissatisfied or gravitate towards more extreme candidates.

Policymakers must not overlook these subtleties when crafting sustainable solutions to democratic erosion. Removing barriers to youth political participation, from restrictive registration policies to candidate age minimums, could help to reduce feelings of political alienation driving youth populist support. But there's also no guarantee that younger candidates will necessarily

be good for democracy.

As such, policies focused on facilitating youth political inclusion must be supplemented with structural reforms meant to both improve quality of governance and counter illiberal narratives.

This will be no easy feat.

For governments, improving the quality of governance and delivery of public services may be rendered nearly impossible due to the severe political polarization that continues to plague democracies worldwide. But while solving the problems of government service delivery is a common refrain, less often discussed is how governments must simultaneously manage constituent expectations, which influence perceived government performance and satisfaction. Exercises in deliberative and community-based governance, like participatory budgeting, could help to build trust among young people, even in challenging governing contexts.

Finally, as antidemocratic forces become more adept at eroding truth for political gain, civil society actors across technology and education sectors must also invest in building digital literacy skills and countering misinformation. While older people may be more likely to share misinformation, studies show that adolescents also have a tough time distinguishing between fake news and trustworthy information online.

Investing in youth-focused media and information literacy initiatives could both improve youth digital literacy and give young people the tools they need to help their parents and grandparents learn the same best practices.

Galvanizing a new generation of democratic defenders is vital for democratic sustainability. But democracies cannot rest on their laurels. They must confront the democratic recession by actively working with and for their youngest constituents, or risk losing a generation's support for democracy itself.

Lauren Meadows and Benjamin Press are recent college graduates and junior fellows at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a nonpartisan foreign policy think tank.

Prepare to put away your pandemic PJs and step outside

By JULIE BULITT and DAVID BULITT

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Who for the last year has not been spending more than a little too much time roaming around in pajamas? We planned to get out of ours one morning, but after some thought, it just seemed like such a waste. Why should we dirty up laundry just to go from the bedroom to the kitchen to the home office and around again? Put on some pants or a dress? Shirt and tie? And what about shoes? Real shoes—not sneakers, slippers or Birkenstocks. No thanks. In our PJs we would stay. Happy, content and comfy.

If most of us knew a year ago what we know now—that we would be under some degree of house arrest for an entire year—there would have been plenty of "get out of heres" and "no ways" and "you are full of its." Most of us would have had more than a little difficulty getting our arms around a year of "nos." No family. No friends. No trips. No movies. No, no, no. Yet, here we are. Thankfully, not at the beginning, but closer to the end.

Both of us tell our clients, for obvious different reasons and with varying purposes, that there is an end in sight. In David's practice as a divorce lawyer, many unhappy couples have found themselves in an unrelenting relationship purgatory—somewhere between "I am stuck" and "I need to get out." For many of Julie's family therapy clients, the idea of transitioning back to "normal" is particularly stressful. It's apprehension overload.

For those who struggle with interpersonal relationships and social anxiety, in particular, the last 12 months have provided a consoling blanket of comfort. Nervous around crowds or strangers? Don't like interacting with peers or co-workers? No problem. Stay home. Stay close. Stay in your PJs.

But what now? The weather is turning warmer. Vaccines are becoming easier to come by. Stores and restaurants are reopening, workers are heading back to their offices, and many people are looking to travel more. To just get out and do.

Many others are not all that hip to returning into a world that requires us to face people again, with masks or without. Make no mistake, social anxiety is real and has metastasized; it affects children and adults of all ages and backgrounds. It does not discriminate among gender, race or vocation. It can be depressing, oppressive and overwhelming. The anxiety is multifaceted and comes from a myriad directions. Can I shake hands? Hug someone? How close can I be when I am talking with a friend? What about crowds? Don't even try talking about concerts and parties and sporting events. To borrow from the "Star Wars" movies, those seem to exist on some other planet that is far, far away.

Simple everyday human contact has, for all intents and purposes, been put on hold by a COVID-induced pause button. People's social skills have gotten rusty or in some cases stalled completely. There is a very palpable trepidation over what reentry will look and feel like, and whether we will ever again be able to have normal relationships with others.

So, what are we to do? Stay in, cover up and stay planted in our self-contained cocoons? We don't think so. Ready yourself for any new journey calls for courage. Put one foot in front of the other, breathe and take that first step. And please, put away the PJs.

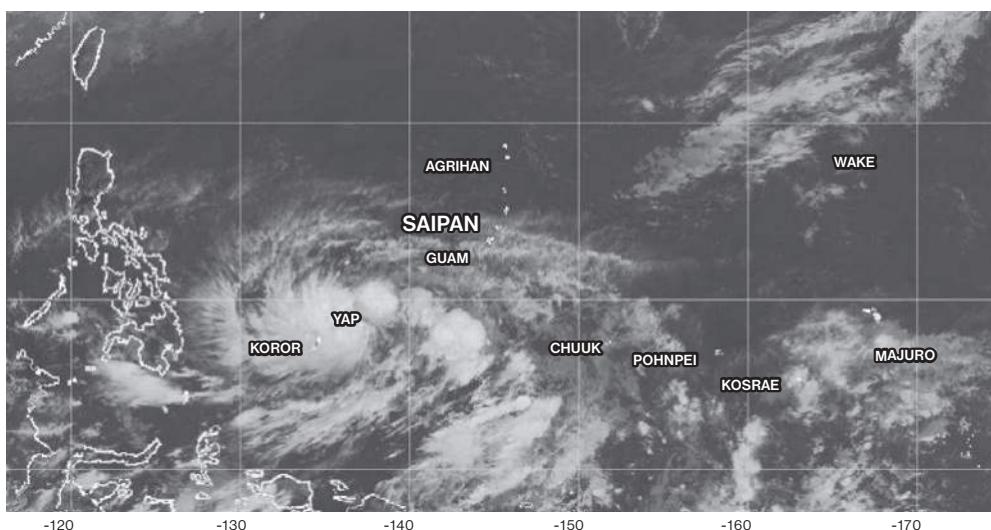
Julie and David Bulitt, respectively a licensed clinical social worker and divorce lawyer, have been married for 34 years and are the parents of four daughters. They are the authors of *The 5 Core Conversations for Couples* and can be reached at www.thebulitts.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows lots of high clouds across the region, especially Guam; the result of upper-level outflow from TD 02W developing southwest of Yap. Though difficult to see through the cirrus, isolated showers are also present, as evident by a shower reported at Saipan and isolated light showers reported by automated gages on Guam. At the buoys, a sudden rise in north swell has caused combined seas to spike at around 7 feet this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87 79 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88 77 °F
Yap	Rain	85 71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84 78 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84 79 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:59 AM	9:04 PM	-
Friday	8:40 AM	9:55 PM	-
Saturday	9:25 AM	10:47 PM	-
Sunday	10:13 AM	11:39 PM	-
Monday	11:04 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Thunderstorms	69 62 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	70 48 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	72 68 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	84 70 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	58 42 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68 52 °F
Manila	Mostly Sunny	96 76 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	74 52 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	80 70 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	63 48 °F
Osaka	Sunny	61 46 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	65 45 °F
Pusan	Sunny	70 42 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	67 51 °F
Salem	Rain	51 40 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57 46 °F
Seoul	Sunny	63 44 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	60 43 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	68 49 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:40 AM	Low Tide	0.97
8:49 AM	High Tide	1.74
3:52 PM	Low Tide	0.10
10:37 PM	High Tide	1.74

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 4, 5, 6				UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 4, 5, 6							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
UA117/183 6:30am 8:50pm 5 via Guam				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam							
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM							
UA183 7:05pm 8:50pm 5				UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5							
UA183 7:15pm 9:10pm 1, 3,				UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3,							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021											
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301	8:30AM</td										

Business

Marianas Meat aims to revive CNMI meat industry

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

P&A Corp., which owns and operates Marianas Meat, believes that sustaining agriculture in the CNMI will not only allow the CNMI weather the ebbs and flows of the tourism industry but will also ensure greater food security for the islands.

At least that's what MM sales manager Kim Sung Hun believes in. "...If the CNMI will only rely on the tourism business, we cannot survive in times like the pandemic. We have seen and experienced it. Another industry that has potential and can thrive in the CNMI is the agricultural business. This also tackles food security for all the islands and we need the government to make this as a priority," he said.

Toward this end, Marianas Meat recently resumed operations after a year of hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns. Hun said that P&A Corp. bought this company 10 years ago and it underwent many challenges and difficulties but now the timing to reopen is perfect, with the pandemic showing people what can be done to make the CNMI economy more resilient.

He said it is the vision of P&A Corp. chair Hong Kyun Kim to help develop a hundred CNMI farmers that can help supply the food needs and requirements of the community in the future.

"With this goal, we want to develop 100 farmers and help them make money in the agricultural industry and provide the CNMI safe and healthy meat that is locally produced because we are currently still



Marianas Meat sales manager Kim Sung Hun and P&A Corp. chair Hong Kyun Kim are laying the groundwork to help revitalize the CNMI economy by jumpstarting the meat and agriculture industry on Saipan.

BEA CABRERA

importing all our meat frozen from overseas," he added.

Kim said that Marianas Meat products are U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved. "Ever since we took over management and operations, we are USDA-certified and inspections have been done regularly. At the start of the pandemic, we stopped operations and we used this time to study how can we make the meat business in the CNMI a success. Currently, we are successful in raising healthy pigs," Hun said.

Before its recent hiatus, Marianas Meat would supply meat to hotels and restaurants, then it started supplying meat to the community via the public market at the Garapan Fishing Base. Right now, the company supplies meat to the Winner' Fresh Meat Market in Garapan across Garapan Elementary School.

"During Marianas Meat's closure, we experienced financial losses but, to keep the business active, P&A chairman Kim would get funding from his other businesses because he strongly believes that the goal to develop 100

farmers will make this and the livelihood of the farmers a success," Hun said.

According to Hun, if they are able to reach out, support, and help educate 100 farmers with new farming techniques, the agriculture sector in the CNMI will grow and its meat industry will flourish because Marianas Meat will eventually buy from them.

In a study that Marianas Meat conducted on this subject, they learned that developing the local livestock will also have positive economic, social, and environmental impacts. "If we develop our domestic livestock, it will contribute to people's income, farmers will be able to use grass instead of feed to have low-cost production method, the CNMI will be able to manage lands by utilizing idle lands, we will be more equipped to respond to global economic changes and come up with measures to revitalize the domestic economy and consider farming as a good source of household income," Hun said. "Health-wise, grazing livestock is very beneficial

because grass-fed meat is rich in minerals, vitamins and omega 3 that slows aging and promotes good health. ... When it comes to environmental benefits, grazing livestock will greatly contribute to keeping the soil healthy by recycling grass cultivation using livestock manure, protects grass species and prevents soil collapse brought about by natural disasters, helps revitalize green areas and promote 'fertilization effect and forest firewall and help eliminate

soil erosion and protects water resources."

Hun said that aside from their desire to work with farmers and ranchers, they support government and elected officials' initiatives to promote buying local and initiatives taken to strengthen food security in the CNMI. "...If we develop the agricultural industry, then we do not have to rely on the tourism industry alone. ...We have what it takes as we have access to an expansive Asian market, gov-

ernment support, stable U.S. financial and legal system and this could open up other opportunities such as installation of new telecommunication infrastructure for online market development."

"...We support the production industry at the national level while helping revitalize the CNMI domestic economy. ... Agriculture will help the CNMI economy—if we provide meat locally then this will help in the CNMI's economic growth," Hun added.

United Airlines to lead switch to sustainable aviation fuel

CHICAGO—United Airlines continues to lead the industry toward a more sustainable future with the launch of the first-of-its-kind Eco-Skies Alliance program. Working with the airline, more than a dozen leading global corporations will collectively contribute toward the purchase of approximately 3.4 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel this year. With its nearly 80% emissions reductions on a lifecycle basis compared to conventional jet fuel, this is enough SAF to eliminate approximately 31,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, or enough to fly passengers over 220 million miles.

As inaugural participants, the following companies are taking a lead within their respective industries, reducing their aviation-related impact on the environment at the source, and creating demand for more SAF production: Autodesk, Boston Consulting Group, CEVA Logistics, Deloitte, DHL Global Forwarding, DSV Panalpina, HP Inc., Nike, Palantir, Siemens, Takeda Pharmaceuticals

"While we've partnered with companies for years to help them offset their flight emissions, we applaud those participating in the Eco-Skies Alliance for recognizing the need to go beyond carbon offsets and support SAF-powered flying, which will lead to more affordable supply and ultimately, lower emissions," said United CEO Scott Kirby. "This is just the beginning. Our goal is to add more companies to the Eco-Skies Alliance pro-

gram, purchase more SAF and work across industries to find other innovative paths towards decarbonization."

United has made the airline industry's single largest investment in SAF and has purchased more SAF than any other airline in the world. World Energy, a long-term partner of United, will supply the SAF to Los Angeles International Airport, which makes it conveniently accessible to United's operations.

Customers traveling with United can now purchase SAF

In addition to the Eco-Skies Alliance program, United is giving customers the ability to contribute funds for additional SAF purchase or for use on initiatives United believes will help decarbonize aviation—the first of any U.S. airline to do so. Understanding there is a growing interest among customers for real, lasting solutions, this new capability will be available starting immediately via portal on united.com/ecoskiesalliance.

Advocating for sustainable travel

Strong federal and state policy leadership will be essential to reducing the climate impacts of air travel, so starting immediately United will help individuals connect with elected representatives to advocate for policies that would make air travel more sustainable for the long term. United will be the first airline in the world to connect customers directly with policy makers to voice the support that is needed to

advance and accelerate permanent, scalable solutions that hold the potential to decarbonize the air transportation industry—and not just offset emissions.

"We know there is a growing demand from a wide range of our customers including corporations, cargo shippers and individuals who share the same concern we do—that climate change is the most pressing issue of our generation," Kirby said.

Eco-Skies Program

United's Eco-Skies program represents the company's commitment to the environment and the actions taken every day to create a more sustainable future. The Carbon Disclosure Project named United as the only airline globally to its 2020 Climate "A List" for the airline's actions to cut emissions, mitigate climate risks and develop the low-carbon economy, marking the seventh consecutive year that United had the highest CDP score among U.S. airlines.

In 2017, *Air Transport World* magazine named United its Eco-Airline of the Year for the second time since the airline launched the Eco-Skies program. Additionally, United ranked No. 1 among global carriers in *Newsweek's* 2017 Global 500 Green Rankings, one of the most recognized environmental performance assessments of the world's largest publicly traded companies. For more information on United's commitment to environmental sustainability, visit united.com/sustainability. (PR)

Biden picks first person of color to head Census fulltime

President Joe Biden on Tuesday said he would pick the president of the American Statistical Association to lead the U.S. Census Bureau as it works toward releasing data from the 2020 census that will be used for redrawing congressional and legislative districts.



Santos,

tos, who is Mexican-American, would become the first

person of color to serve as a permanent director of the Census Bureau, the nation's largest statistical agency. Santos currently is vice president and chief methodologist at the Urban Institute.

The San Antonio native is an expert in survey sampling.

He has 40 years of experience in survey design and social science and policy research.

In a 2019 speech, Santos related how his family's story tracked that of many U.S. Latinos, as the percentage of native-born Hispanics in the U.S. has increased over the decades. His Spanish-speaking grandparents came from Mexico, but by his generation he was speaking only English. (AP)



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
4,136.25
+3.50
+0.08%

DOW
33,572.00
+2.00
+0.01%

NASDAQ
13,978.25
+2.50
+0.02%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.31
British Pound	0.7273
Canadian Dollar	1.25
Chinese Yuan	6.54
Euro	0.8369

Hong Kong Dollar **7.77**

Indian Rupee **75.27**

Japanese Yen **109.07**

Malaysian Ringgit **4.13**

New Zealand Dollar **1.42**

Philippine Peso **47.65**

Russian Ruble **76.00**

Singapore Dollar **1.34**

South Korean Won **1,121.55**

Swiss Franc **0.921**

Taiwan Dollar **28.42**

Thailand Baht **31.52**

Nation

US to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America that were coordinated from that country, several U.S. officials said

Tuesday.

The decision defies a May 1 deadline for full withdrawal under a peace agreement the Trump administration reached with the Taliban last year, but leaves no room for additional extensions. A senior admin-

istration official called the September date an absolute deadline that won't be affected by security conditions in the country.

While Biden's decision keeps U.S. troops in Afghanistan four months longer than

initially planned, it sets a firm end to two decades of war that killed more than 2,200 U.S. troops, wounded 20,000, and cost as much as \$1 trillion. The conflict largely crippled al-Qaida and led to the death of Osama bin Laden, the architect of the Sept. 11 attacks. But an American withdrawal also risks many of the gains made in democracy, women's rights and governance, while ensuring that the Taliban, who provided al-Qaida's safe haven, remain strong and in control of large swaths of the country.

Biden has been hinting for weeks that he was going to let the May deadline lapse, and as the days went by it became clear that an orderly withdrawal of the roughly 2,500 remaining troops would be difficult and was unlikely. The administration official said the drawdown would begin by May 1.

Biden's choice of the 9/11 date underscores the reason that American troops were in Afghanistan to begin with—to prevent extremist groups like al-Qaida from establishing a foothold again that could be used to launch attacks against the U.S.

The administration official said Biden decided that the withdrawal deadline had to be absolute, rather than based on conditions on the ground.

"We're committing today to going to zero" U.S. forces by Sept. 11, and possibly well before, the official said, adding that Biden concluded that a conditioned withdrawal would be "a recipe for staying in Afghanistan forever."

Defense officials and commanders had argued against the May 1 deadline, saying the U.S. troop withdrawal should be based on security conditions in Afghanistan, including Taliban attacks and violence.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden will deliver remarks Wednesday "on the way forward in Afghanistan, including his plans and timeline for withdrawing U.S. troops." She didn't provide details, but said during a White House briefing that Biden "has been consistent in his view that there is not a military solution to Afghanistan, that we have been there for far too long."

Psaki tweeted later Tuesday that Biden would also visit Arlington National Cemetery "to pay his respects to the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan."

Several U.S. officials confirmed Biden's withdrawal decision to The Associated Press, and an administration official provided details to reporters on condition of anonymity, speaking ahead of the announcement.

Decision expected on charges for cop who shot Black motorist



AP
Demonstrators take cover from crowd-dispersal munitions from police outside the Brooklyn Center Police Department while protesting the shooting death of Daunte Wright, late Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP)—Prosecutors expect to decide Wednesday whether to charge the white former police officer who fatally shot a Black man during a traffic stop in a Minneapolis suburb, sparking nights of protests and raising tensions amid the nearby murder trial of the ex-officer charged with killing George Floyd.

Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter and Police Chief Tim Gannon resigned Tuesday, two days after Potter shot 20-year-old Daunte Wright. Gannon has said he believed Potter mistakenly grabbed her pistol when she was trying to pull out her Taser. Brooklyn Center Mayor

Mike Elliott said at a news conference that the city had been moving toward firing Potter, a 26-year veteran, when she resigned. Elliott said he hoped her resignation would "bring some calm to the community," but that he would keep working toward "full accountability under the law."

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput told WC-CO-AM that he had received information on the case from state investigators and hoped to have a charging decision on Wednesday. Orput did not respond to a message from The Associated Press. While the shooting happened in Hennepin County, prosecutors

referred the case to nearby Washington County—a practice county attorneys in the Minneapolis area adopted last year in handling police deadly force cases.

"We have to make sure that justice is served, justice is done. Daunte Wright deserves that. His family deserves that," Elliott said.

But police and protesters faced off once again after nightfall Tuesday, with hundreds of protesters gathering again at Brooklyn Center's heavily guarded police headquarters, now ringed by concrete barriers and a tall metal fence, and where police in riot gear and National Guard soldiers stood watch.

Expert says cop was justified in pinning down George Floyd

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Former Officer Derek Chauvin was justified in pinning George Floyd to the ground because he kept struggling, a use-of-force expert testified for the defense Tuesday, contradicting a parade of authorities from both inside and outside the Minneapolis Police Department.

Taking the stand at Chauvin's murder trial, Barry Brodd, a former Santa Rosa, California, officer, stoutly defended Chauvin's actions, even as a prosecutor pounded away at the witness, banging the lectern at one point during cross-examination and growing

incredulous when Brodd suggested Floyd was struggling because he wasn't "resting comfortably" on the pavement.

"It's easy to sit and judge ... an officer's conduct," Brodd testified. "It's more of a challenge to, again, put yourself in the officer's shoes to try to make an evaluation through what they're feeling, what they're sensing, the fear they have, and then make a determination."

He said he doesn't believe Chauvin and the other officers used deadly force when they held Floyd down on his stomach, his hands cuffed behind his back and Chauvin's knee on his neck or neck area for

what prosecutors say was 9 1/2 minutes.

Brodd likened it instead to a situation in which officers use a Taser on someone fighting with officers, and the suspect falls, hits his head and dies: "That isn't an incident of deadly force. That's an incident of an accidental death."

Several top Minneapolis police officials, including the police chief, have testified that Chauvin used excessive force and violated his training. And medical experts called by prosecutors have said that Floyd died from a lack of oxygen because of the way he was restrained.

'Prime suspect' arrested in 1996 disappearance of student

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The longtime suspect in the 25-year-old disappearance of California college student Kristin Smart was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of murder, and his father was booked in jail as an accessory to the crime.

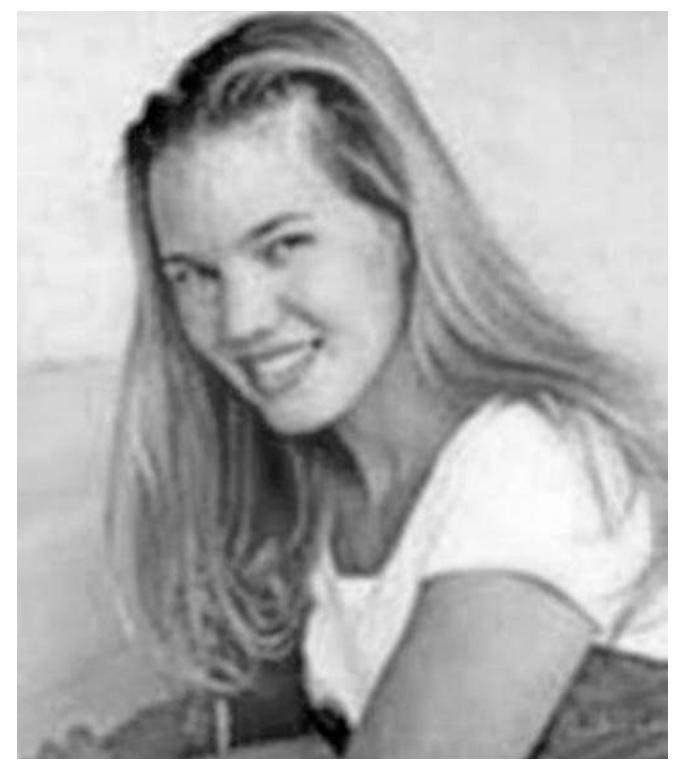
Paul Flores, 44, who was the last person seen with Smart on the California Polytechnic State University campus in San Luis Obispo before she vanished in 1996, was taken into custody in the Los Angeles area. His father, Ruben Flores, 80, was arrested at his Arroyo Grande home, where sheriff's investigators conducted a new search for evidence.

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson said arrest warrants were issued after a search of the elder Flores' home last month using ground-penetrating radar and cadaver dogs turned up new evidence linked to Smart's killing, though her body has not yet been found.

"Until we return Kristin to (her family), this is not over," Parkinson said. "We have committed to them that we are not going to stop until it has been recovered no matter what the cost, no matter what the time."

Smart, 19, of Stockton, vanished May 25, 1996, while returning to her dorm at Cal Poly after an off-campus party. She was last seen with Flores, a fellow freshman at the school at the time, who had offered to take her home.

Smart's family issued a



AP
This undated photo released by the FBI shows Kristin Smart, the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo student who disappeared in 1996.

statement saying it was a bittersweet day they had long waited for and a first step toward bringing their daughter home.

"While Kristin's loving spirit will always live in our hearts, our life without her hugs, laughs and smiles is a heartache that never abates," they said. "The knowledge that a father and son, despite our desperate pleas for help, could have withheld this horrible secret for nearly 25 years, denying us the chance to lay our daughter to rest, is an unrelenting and unforgiving pain."

Flores, 44, was arrested at his home in the San Pedro area of Los Angeles and taken to a police car in handcuffs wearing pajama bottoms and a surf T-shirt. His father, Ruben Flores, 80, was arrested at his Arroyo Grande home, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of the university.

Paul Flores has been under suspicion almost from the start, but the case picked up steam in the past couple years after Parkinson ordered a thorough review of the evidence after his election in 2011 and a fulltime cold case detective was hired.

Asia

Philippines summons Chinese ambassador over reef dispute

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government summoned the Chinese ambassador to press its demand for Chinese vessels to immediately leave a reef claimed by Manila in the South China Sea and said their presence was stoking tensions, officials said Tuesday.

The escalating feud between Manila and Beijing started after more than 200 Chinese vessels suspected by Philippine authorities to be operated by militias were spotted early last month at Whitsun Reef. The Philippine government demanded the vessels leave then deployed coast guard and patrol vessels to the area but China said it owns the reef and the Chinese vessels were sheltering from rough seas.

After summoning Ambassador Huang Xilian on Monday, Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Elizabeth Buensuceso expressed to him Manila's "displeasure over the illegal lingering presence of Chinese vessels around Julian Felipe Reef," the foreign affairs department said in a statement, using the Philippine name for



In this March 31, 2021, file photo provided by the National Task Force-West Philippine Sea, Chinese vessels are moored at Whitsun Reef, South China Sea.

V AP

Whitsun Reef in the most hotly disputed Spratly region of the busy waterway.

"The continuing presence of Chinese vessels around the reef is a source of regional tension," Buensuceso said.

She reiterated to Huang that the reef, which lies about 175 nautical miles (324 kilometers) west of the Philippine province of Palawan, is within an internationally recognized offshore zone where Manila has the exclusive right to exploit fisheries, oil, gas and other resources.

She also cited a 2016 ruling

in an international arbitration case the Philippines brought against China that invalidated Beijing's vast claims on historical grounds to virtually all of the South China Sea under a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty.

The Philippine military has said aerial surveillance showed some of the Chinese vessels have left the reef but more than 40 remained moored in the area in late March. It debunked China's claim that the vessels were sheltering from rough seas saying the weather has been fine around the reef.

South Korea reports highest jump in 3 months

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has recorded its highest daily jump in new COVID-19 infections in about three months, as officials urge the public to maintain vigilance.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said

Wednesday it's confirmed 731 new cases over the past 24 hours. They brought the country's total to 111,419 with 1,782 deaths.

The spike comes amid criticism of a slow vaccine rollout while people are increasingly venturing outdoors to take ad-

vantage of good weather.

Senior health official Yoon Taeho says an increased mobility last weekend was proof that South Korea's public vigilance has loosened, and that elevating social distancing rules will be discussed in the next few days.

Thailand records more than 900 cases for third day in a row

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand recorded a third day in a row with more than 900 coronavirus cases on Tuesday, as thousands of people swarmed to beaches on the first day of a long national holiday despite warnings from health officials.

Dr. Opas Karnkavipong, director-general of Disease Control Department, warned that possible lockdowns will be implemented next week when people return to the cities after the traditional New Year festival, known as Songkran. He said the government will implement a work-from-home order for all public services after the holiday.

The government reported 965 new cases Tuesday to bring the totals since the pandemic began to 34,575 infections and 97 deaths. More

than 6,000 of those cases have been recorded since April 1, when the new surge erupted in nightclubs and bars in a central Bangkok.

"The situation is still worrisome; more measures are to come," Opas said at a daily briefing.

He ruled out a general lockdown, but said the Health Ministry was mulling targeted ones in high risk areas. The government has already ordered a shut down of all bars and entertainment places in Bangkok and 40 other provinces, but has not barred travel between Thailand's 77 provinces.

Many provincial governors, however, have taken their own steps and regulated access to 37 of provinces—including mandatory two week quarantines for visitors in some places.

Millions of Thais have traveling around the country—often from urban areas to rural villages—for the Songkran festival. At beaches in eastern Chonburi province, thousands of people had gathered Tuesday to enjoy the first official day of the holiday.

Health experts said this third major surge to hit the country was proving more difficult to control as it was mostly a variant of the virus first found in the U.K. and has mostly affected younger people because it broke out at nightclubs and bars.

Because Thailand has a mandatory hospitalization rule for all positive cases, the surge has also created a shortage of beds. Opas said that problem had been addressed with 30,000 beds now available in hospitals and field facilities.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

South Africa halts J&J vaccine jabs; Europe rollout delayed

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa suspended giving Johnson & Johnson vaccine shots Tuesday as a "precautionary measure" and the company delayed its European vaccine rollout following an FDA decision to pause the jabs while very rare blood clot cases are examined. South Africa has given more than 289,000 doses of the J&J vaccine to the country's health workers without any reports of rare blood clots, Health Minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize told reporters. He said South Africa was halting the use of J&J jabs "out of an abundance of caution" and expected that questions over the J&J vaccine should "be cleared within a matter of days."

Mkhize said "in the unlikely event" that the J&J vaccines are permanently halted, South Africa would continue with its vaccination campaign in May using doses from Pfizer-BioNTech. Earlier, Johnson & Johnson said it was delaying the rollout of its coronavirus vaccine across Europe amid the U.S. probe, a move that experts worried could further shake vaccine confidence and complicate worldwide COVID-19 immunization efforts. The announcement came after regulators in the United States said they were recommending a "pause" in the single-dose shot to investigate reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots. "We have made the decision to proactively delay the rollout of our vaccine in Europe," Johnson & Johnson said.

St. Vincent seeks water, funds as volcano keeps erupting

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP)—Leaders of volcano-wrecked St. Vincent said Tuesday that water is running short as heavy ash contaminates supplies, and they estimated that the eastern Caribbean island will need hundreds of millions of dollars to recover from the eruption of La Soufrière. Between 16,000 to 20,000 people have been evacuated from the island's northern region, where the exploding volcano is located, with more than 3,000 of them staying at more than 80 government shelters. Dozens of people stood in lines on Tuesday for water or to retrieve money sent by friends and family abroad. Among those standing in one crowd was retired police officer Paul Smart. "The volcano caught us with our pants down, and it's very devastating," he said. "No water, lots of dust in

our home. We thank God we are alive, but we need more help at this moment." Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves said in a press conference on local station NBC Radio that St. Vincent will need hundreds of millions of dollars to recover from the eruption but did not give any details.

Turkey imposes partial Ramadan lockdown amid record cases

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's president announced a partial lockdown Tuesday during the first two weeks of the Muslim month of Ramadan to curb COVID-19 infections as the number of infections hit a record. In a televised address following a Cabinet meeting, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the government was re-imposing bans on intercity travel, barring people over 65 and under 18 from using public transport, re-adjusting public sector working hours, closing sports and leisure centers and expanding the length of nighttime curfews. Schools will return to distance education, apart from classes preparing for high school and university entrance exams. Weddings, engagement parties and other crowded gatherings will be barred until after the Muslim Eid holiday, Erdogan said. The Turkish leader stressed that crowded Iftar, or Ramadan fast-breaking dinners, would also not be allowed. On Tuesday, the health ministry reported 59,187 new infections in a single day, the highest since the start of Turkey's outbreak. It also reported 273 deaths.

Pope asks US bishop to resign after cover-up investigation

ROME (AP)—A bishop in Minnesota resigned Tuesday at the request of Pope Francis after he was investigated by the Vatican for allegedly interfering with past investigations into clergy sexual abuse, officials said. The Vatican said Francis accepted the resignation of Crookston Bishop Michael Hoeppner and named a temporary replacement to run the diocese. Hoeppner is 71, four years shy of the normal retirement age for bishops. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Crookston said the pontiff asked Hoeppner to resign following the Vatican probe, which it said arose from reports that the bishop "had at times failed to observe applicable norms when presented with allegations of sexual abuse involving clergy." The Vatican and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops simultaneously announced Hoeppner's resignation and the appointment of the

Most Rev. Richard E. Pate, the retired bishop of Des Moines, as a temporary administrator without commenting on the reason for the change.

France suspends all Brazil flights due to virus variants

PARIS (AP)—France suspended all flights from Brazil on Tuesday amid mounting fears over the particularly contagious coronavirus variant that has been sweeping the South American country. Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the suspension to parliament. "We note that the situation is getting worse and so we have decided to suspend all flights between Brazil and France until further notice," Castex said, drawing scattered applause from lawmakers. Although France has seen comparatively few known cases of the P.1 variant striking Brazil, the ravages it is causing in Latin America's largest nation are increasingly raising alarm bells in France. Castex noted that travelers from Brazil already needed to test negative for the virus before their departure and upon arrival in France, and also quarantine for 10 days. But the government was also facing mounting calls from health experts for a flight suspension to further limit potential spread.

Dutch govt says it's too early to start easing the lockdown

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The Dutch government on Tuesday presented a roadmap for relaxing coronavirus lockdown measures, but caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte stressed that it is still too early to ease restrictions. In a nationally televised press conference, Rutte said hospitals in the Netherlands are as crowded with COVID-19 patients now as they were during the first wave of the pandemic last year and that it would be irresponsible to relax the country's months-long lockdown now. The government had previously said it hoped the first relaxation could have started April 21, but Rutte said that was too soon. "The reality is that the end is in sight, the reality that society can reopen again in a responsible way. We will take the first step when the peak of the third wave has passed," Rutte said. Earlier Tuesday, the Dutch public health institute said the number of new coronavirus infections rose 6% over the past week to 51,240, with the largest increase in positive tests recorded among children aged 13-17 years. The increase comes despite the months-long tough lockdown in the Netherlands.

Environment

US Navy Guam team wins SECNAV Environmental Award

ASAN, Guam—Environmental experts from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas and NAVFAC Pacific were recently awarded the 2021 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management Individual or Team for work at Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz.

The MCB Camp Blaz Guam Cultural Resources Team is composed of NAVFAC employees assigned to the installation and Joint Region Marianas for the implementation of the 2011 Programmatic Agreement for the Marine Corps relocation in Guam. They also provide cultural resource management expertise

for the oversight and management of 50,452 acres of land and 247 square miles of water training and test ranges located on the islands of Tinian, Farallon de Medinilla, and Guam.

“Congratulations to the entire MCB Camp Blaz Guam Cultural Resources Team on being recognized as the 2021 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award winner for Cultural Resources Management Individual or Team,” said NAVFAC Pacific commander Rear Adm. John Adametz. “This impressive accomplishment showcases the collaborative effort between NAVFAC Pacific, NAVFAC Marianas, and MCB Camp Blaz on managing cultural resources

on such a high-profile project. This is a great example of teamwork demonstrated by our talented and dedicated group of professionals.”

The 2011 PA satisfies the

requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and guides the management of properties affected by construction and operations of MCB Camp Blaz. Mitigation requirements of the 2011 PA, some of which are unique from other agreements under the Department of the Navy, are overseen and implemented by the GCRT.

“Our team has completed an extensive amount of work over the last few years that continues to shine light on Guam’s rich cultural heritage. I’m extremely proud of the men and women dedicated to preserving stories from the past that are vital to our identity as a nation and are a source of learning opportunities for the present,” said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Tim Liberatore. “The

construction of a new military installation involves many moving parts, and our cultural resources team plays a significant role in ensuring we meet all federal requirements, while also working alongside our government of Guam counterparts.”

Some of the key objectives successfully carried out by the team include innovating through program and project management improvements; promoting transparency and outreach with key stakeholders; reviewing performance and adapting to resolve disputes; investing in cultural resource professionals; and developing solutions to complex mitigations.

With the anticipated arrival of approximately 5,000 Marines to Guam in the coming years, the team contributes significantly to quality assurance by conducting site visits, reviewing documents, and communicating frequently with construction and archeological contractors.

“The Camp Blaz environmental team continues to ex-

cel with yet another award recognizing their hard work and success managing and helping to protect Guam’s cultural resources for future generations,” said MCB Camp Blaz commanding officer Col. Bradley Magrath. “We could not be more proud of their accomplishments, dedication to cultural stewardship and respect for the island’s heritage while supporting the responsible construction of the base. I look forward to our environmental team building upon our successes while continuing to ensure a compliant and sustainable cultural resource management program.”

The collaborative effort between NAVFAC Marianas, NAVFAC Pacific, MCB Camp Blaz, and JRM, and the continuing relationship with the local community is a display of the team’s commitment to cultural stewardship and respect for the island’s cultural heritage.

“Building a new base provides an opportunity for the

cultural resources team to collect new information about the history of the Guam as we support construction activities,” said GCRT team lead Ronnie Rogers, NAVFAC Marianas cultural resource manager at MCB Camp Blaz. “To an archaeologist, excavations are a window looking back in time and the scale of development represents the rare opportunity of a clearer view. Implementing the 2011 PA has resulted in significant new information, which we submit as technical reports to Guam State Historic Preservation Office for researchers and educational booklets, workshops, consultations, and exhibits for the public. All of our fellow GCRT members have been crucial to our accomplishments, but more importantly we are grateful to the Guam community for the valuable input and attention, which at the end of the day results in better-informed management of Guam cultural resources under our team’s care.” (PR)

WHO urges pause in market sale of captured live wild animals

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations’ health agency on Tuesday urged countries to suspend the sale of live animals captured from the wild in food markets as an emergency measure, saying wild animals are a leading source of emerging infectious diseases like the coronavirus.

The World Health Organization, backed by key partners, issued new guidance saying that animals—particularly wild animals—are the source of more than 70 percent of all emerging infectious diseases in humans, many of which are caused by novel viruses.”

The coronavirus’s origins more than a year ago have been the source of intense speculation, much of it centered around the likelihood that it was carried by bats and passed to humans through an intermediary species sold as food or medicine in traditional Chi-

nese wet markets. The pandemic first appeared in the city of Wuhan, China.

WHO highlighted the risk of direct transmission of emerging infectious diseases to humans who come in contact with bodily fluids of an infected animal, and cited the “additional risk” of picking it up in places where such animals are housed or locations that could have been contaminated with such viruses.

“Globally, traditional markets can play a central role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations,” WHO said in a statement. However, “Banning the sale of the animals can protect people’s health—both those working there and those shopping there.”

WHO joined with the World Organization for Animal Health and the U.N. environment program in its analysis leading to the new recommendations.

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Protesters in Serbia rallied Saturday demanding that the government protect the environment in a Balkan nation that has seen record levels of air pollution and scores of other ecological problems following decades of neglect.

Several thousand people gathered outside the Serbian parliament building in the capital of Belgrade for an “ecological uprising” against what organizers say is a widespread environmental devastation in the nation aspiring to join the European Union. Some wore face masks to ward off coronavirus but not all.

Serbia has faced mounting problems that include poor garbage management and high air pollution caused by the use of poor-quality coal and other pollutants. Rivers have been polluted by toxic industrial waste and many cities, including Belgrade, lack good sewage and waste water systems.

“We came to say ‘No!’ to those who jeopardize our rivers and our nature every day,” said Aleksandar Jovanovic, who belongs to a movement opposed to building small hydropower plants on Serbia’s rivers.

Protesters carried banners reading “Cut corruption and crime, not forests!” or “Water is life” and “Plant a tree!”—referring to shrinking green areas in the cities, particularly in Belgrade, where huge concrete residential areas have sprung up in recent years.

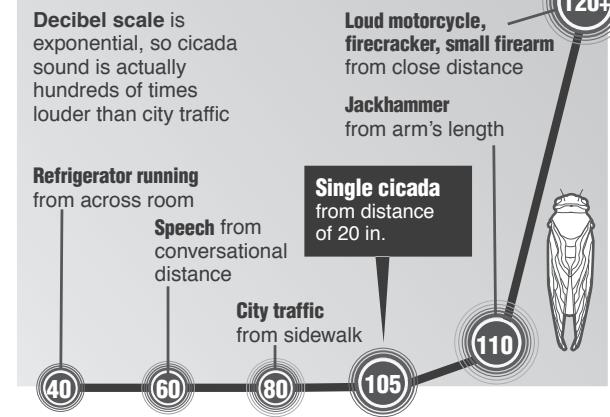


People hold banners during a protest in front of the Serbian Parliament building in Belgrade, Serbia, Saturday, April 10, 2021. Environmental activists are protesting against worsening environmental situation in Serbia. (AP)

Cicadas' notorious noise

Mating call of the male cicada compared to some other nuisances:

Approximate sound pressure in decibels



Source: University of Florida Department of Entomology and Nematology, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Graphic: Staff, TNS

“I think this is the most important topic in our lives,” said protester Bojana Jovanovic.

The protesters demanded a ban on building small hydroelectric plants, better environmental education, greener urban areas and cleaner air.

International studies have suggested that air pollution is shortening the lifespans of people living in the Western Balkans.

Hours before the rally, the Serbian Environment Ministry said that Serbia’s many problems are not new and insisted the government has launched projects aimed at finding long-term solutions to pollution. Environment Minister

Irena Vujovic later described the protest as political, saying organizers wanted to make “quick political gains” rather than work to solve problems.

Activists from Bosnia joined the protest, saying that everyone in the region shares the same concerns.

The Balkan nations must substantially improve their environmental protection policies if they want to move forward in their bids to join the 27-nation EU. Impoverished and marred by corruption after years of crisis in the 1990s, many Balkan countries have pushed environmental issues to the sidelines.

Last winter, Bosnia and

Serbia drew world attention after pictures were published of rivers clogged with tons of plastic bottles and other garbage that washed away from poorly-managed landfills and illegal dumpsites.

While much of the region’s air pollution comes from outdated coal power plants, activists also accused Serbian authorities of turning a blind eye to pollution generated by foreign-funded projects.

“This is our country!” said Jovanovic. “You are all welcome, the Russians and Chinese, Americans. But under one condition: there must be no poisoning of our children.”

Life & Style

LONDON (AP)—When Prince Philip's funeral takes place on Saturday, it will be more than a focal point for national mourning. Many will also be watching for any signs of reconciliation between

Prince Harry and the royal family, especially with his elder brother Prince William.

It will be the first time that Harry comes face-to-face with the royal family since he and his wife Meghan, the Duchess

of Sussex, stepped away from royal duties last March and moved to California with their young son, Archie.

While that departure caused a huge rift in the monarchy, family relations took a further dive last month when Harry and Meghan gave a candid interview with U.S. talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Among other revelations, Harry confirmed rumors that he and his brother had been growing apart, saying "the relationship is 'space' at the moment"—though he added that "time heals all things, hopefully."

Harry also told Winfrey that his father, heir to the throne Prince Charles, was not accepting his calls for a time.

And the couple threw a bombshell by revealing that an unnamed member of the royal family had expressed concern about "how dark" their child's skin color might be due to Meghan's biracial heritage. Days after the explosive racism accusations were aired,

ever known."

Rowling is best known for her "Harry Potter" fantasy series, but also has published detective novels under the penname J.K. Galbraith and such children's works as "The Ickabog." Her new book will be illustrated by Jim Field.

NEW YORK (AP)—J.K. Rowling has a new book coming this fall, a holiday children's story with all new characters.

Scholastic announced Tuesday that "The Christmas Pig," the story of a boy named Jack and a beloved toy (Dur Pig) which goes missing, will be released worldwide Oct. 12.

"But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life ... even toys," according to Scholastic.



Rowling

Mick Jagger and Dave Grohl team up for pandemic anthem

NEW YORK (AP)—Mick Jagger and Dave Grohl have teamed up for a hard-rock pandemic anthem called "Eazy Sleazy."

"It's a song that I wrote about coming out of lockdown, with some much needed optimism," Jagger said in a statement Tuesday. "Thanks to Dave Grohl for jumping on drums, bass and guitar. It was a lot of fun working with him."

The duo recorded the song and video in different studio locations—Jagger at home and Grohl in the Foo Fighters studio—and the lyrics mention "prison walls," "virtual

premieres," numbers that are "grim" and Zoom calls. Jagger complains: "I've got nothing left to wear."

The song also name-checks Bill Gates, lampoons conspiracy theories and those who deny climate change and gleefully reveals "There's aliens in the deep state."

But there seems to be hope. Jagger looks ahead and sees a "garden of earthly delights" when vaccines are administered and lockdown ends.

"Everything's gonna get really freaky/Alright on the night/Soon it'll be a memory/You're trying to remember to forget."

Serena Williams has signed a deal with Amazon Studios under which she will create scripted and non-scripted programming, including a docuseries that follows her exploits on and off the court, the tennis

Royal funeral offers chance for William, Harry to reconcile



AP

In this file photo dated Tuesday, July 10, 2018, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, and from left, Meghan the Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry, Prince William and Kate the Duchess of Cambridge, watch as Royal Air Force aircraft pass over Buckingham Palace in London.

William shot back, telling reporters that his was "very much not a racist family."

In spite of the tensions, Sat-

urday's funeral will almost certainly remind the brothers of their shared grief at another royal funeral more than two

decades ago—when, as young boys, both walked behind their mother Princess Diana's coffin in 1997.

Serena Williams signs programming deal with Amazon Studios

star said Tuesday.

Williams made the announcement during a conversation with actor Michael B. Jordan that was part of a charitable event organized by Vanity Fair magazine.

The 39-year-old Williams, who ranks second all-time with 23 Grand Slam singles titles, said she hopes to "bring really special stories to film, and to people's homes."

Williams, who has limited

her schedule in recent years because of injuries and the birth of her daughter, has not played since she lost in the Australian Open semifinals in February to Naomi Osaka, who went on to win the title. (AP)

Selena Gomez and J.Lo headline vax concert for poor nations

NEW YORK (AP)—Backed by an international concert hosted by Selena Gomez and headlined by Jennifer Lopez, Global Citizen is unveiling an ambitious campaign to help medical workers in the world's poorest countries quickly receive COVID-19 vaccines.

The anti-poverty organization is announcing the musical event—"VAX Live: The



Gomez

Concert to Reunite the World"—with the goal of enlisting corporations and philanthropists to raise \$22 billion for global vaccinations. The concert, which airs May 8 on ABC, CBS and FOX as well as on iHeartMedia radio stations and YouTube, will also show-

"There are 27 million healthcare workers globally who don't have access to the vaccine," Evans told The Associated Press. "I'm 38 years old, and it's not ethical for me to have access to the vaccine before these heroic first responders and community health workers. So we need governments to start urgently donating those doses."

Long marriage becomes abusive over time

DEAR ABBY: My husband's dad, "Adam," is very mellow and can talk to anyone. His mom, "Eve," is friendly, but a little more reserved.

Early in their marriage, Adam was a drinker, and my mother-in-law has never forgiven him for the way he treated her during that time. She has always treated him disrespectfully, but as they get older, it's becoming worse.

She has hit Adam when we had people over because he didn't do what she told him to do. I told her to stop, and my husband told her she embarrassed him, but Eve forgets or doesn't care and continues to do it. She talks down to him constantly. If that's how she acts when people are around, I hate to think what happens behind closed doors.

When she hits him, Adam sits there expressionless and doesn't react. He's not the man he once was, and he is adored by many people. What can we do to help my FIL and make her stop doing this in front of her grandkids and company? Eve claims to be a Christian, but isn't acting like one.

FRUSTRATED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your father-in-law may have had a drinking problem years ago, but he has a different problem now. He is a victim of verbal and physical abuse. He may have tolerated it all these years out of guilt for

what he put his wife through when he was drinking. He may also have become so beaten down that he can no longer protect himself.

He does need help. With your and his son's encouragement, he can receive it because there are programs available for male victims of domestic violence. Stop Abuse for Everyone (SAFE) is an organization that helps abused individuals of all ages, genders, races and sexual orientations. The website is stopabuseforeveryone.org.

DEAR ABBY: I met a nice friend. He's a widower whose wife has been gone for three years. My husband died 10 years ago.

He makes me laugh, something I haven't done in a while. I really like this guy, but he is still grieving. Some days he's good, but others he's a mess.

I want us to be in a relationship, and I think he could be "the one." We've only been courting for a month, but he has been pursuing me for a year. Should I give it more time, or should I move on with my life? I haven't been intimate with him, but he still makes me feel like a woman, which is something I've missed.

THINKING IT'S HIM IN MARYLAND

DEAR THINKING: As you know, the process of grieving isn't a straight line. When a loved one dies, the survi-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

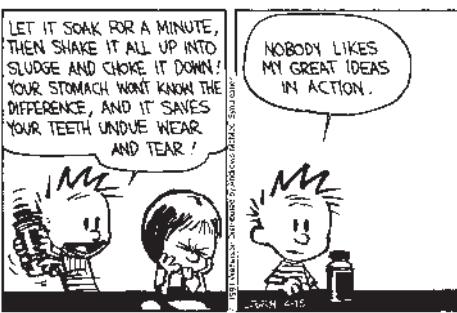
vors have good periods and ones that are less so. You are further along in this grieving process than your friend because his loss is more recent.

If a relationship (or more) is what you want, allow him more time to work through his feelings. However, if the bad spells don't become less frequent, suggest he talk with his doctor about joining a grief support group in which he can safely vent his feelings.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

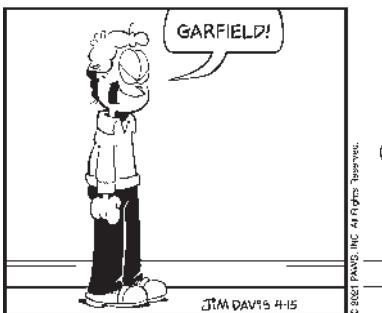
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

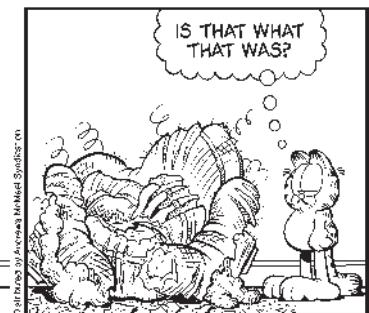


By Bill Waterson

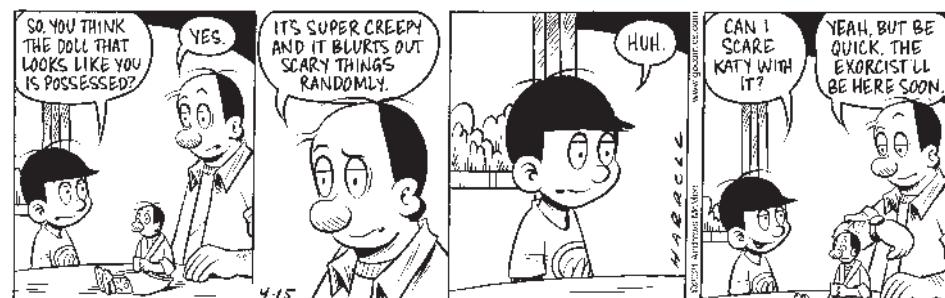
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Blow one's top	22	Window coating
1 Rum cake	39	40 Per-forming	23	Billions of years
5 Don't have	41	"Real Time" host Bill Arthur	24	100%
9 West of Hollywood	42	Legume	25	Classic car
12 Addict	43	Weapons store	26	— City (Denver nickname)
13 Golf bag item	47	Peru's capital	27	Trade
14 "Life — cabaret ..."	48	"Entourage" role	29	Sister
15 Herbal tea	51	Yule quaff	30	Mauna —
17 Part of UNLV	52	Singer India —	35	"Right you —!"
18 Madrid matron	53	Jazzy James	37	Canine coat
19 Skilled	54	Some-what (Suff.)	39	City-based
21 Concerning	55	British big shots	40	Hosp. areas
22 Disgusted	56	Take a gander	41	Gershwin's "The — Love"
24 Multitude			42	Book after Joel
27 "No seats" sign			43	Sticks around a pool hall?
28 Hit on the noggin			44	Corleone patriarch
31 Mainlander's memento			45	Sax range
32 Triumphed			46	Ship wood
33 Take to court			49	Acapulco gold
34 "Damn Yankees" vamp			50	Pen tip
36 Ninny				
37 Sicilian spouter				

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Emma Watson, 31; Seth Rogen, 39; Flex Alexander, 51; Emma Thompson, 62.

Happy Birthday: Keep life, love and your financial matters in perspective. Put a strategy in place to ensure you stick to your budget, and don't take on more than you can handle. You have so much to gain if you pay attention to detail and channel your energy into completing whatever task you pursue. Turn your enthusiasm into something concrete. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 24, 32, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put greater emphasis on how you handle your money and the contributions you make. Stay within your budget, and you will ease stress. Enjoy the company of someone you love, and it will bring you closer together. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put energy behind your plans, and make your dreams come true. It's up to you to do the work; if you count on others, you'll be disappointed. Delve in, get things done and enjoy the fruits of your labor. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Live up to your promises and explore new territory. Do the groundwork and broaden your outlook. Knowledge is power, and using what you discover will help you get ahead. An unusual opportunity is heading in your direction. Romance is favored. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Assess your financial situation, then make adjustments. Listen to your heart. Be imaginative, and you'll come up with a plan that will make your life

meaningful. A physical change will turn out better than anticipated. Romance is on the rise. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fold under pressure. Invest in you and your ability to up your game, skills and knowledge. Shoot for the stars and walk away from unpredictable situations and people. Take ownership of your life, and do what makes you happy. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional manipulation will set you back. Walk away from questionable situations and people who are unreliable. Put your time and effort into making personal changes that will contribute to your happiness, not into appeasing someone. Live life your way. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Aim high, be productive and make your voice heard.

Stand up for your rights; lead the way to greater happiness and potential gain. Stop observing and start doing. Don't fold under pressure, regardless of the promises someone makes. Appreciate who you are. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore possibilities. Take hold of your physical well-being. Make a point to revamp your lifestyle to include well-rounded fitness and diet routines. Follow your intuition, and you'll find a way to support your needs, reach your goals. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Too many choices will confuse you. Question the motives of others before you agree to anything. Empty promises are likely. Rely on yourself. You will find the happiness you crave. Safe networking will lead to a new opportunity. **★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on the way you look and how you live. Fix up your digs and update your appearance. You'll make an impression on someone special. Don't depend on others, and question those who reject you doing what's best for you. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take better care of yourself and your finances. Use your intelligence to ward off meddling or lousy advice. Do your research, follow your heart and make lifestyle adjustments to help you achieve your goals. Take pride in what you do. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional trap will lead to trouble. Resist temptation and focus on what's best for you. Self-improvement projects along with investments that contribute to your long-term security are favored. Don't allow anyone the chance to take advantage of you. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, energetic and talkative. You are determined and persuasive.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects.

★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	6	4	3	1	2	8	7
7	2	4	8	9	5	1	6	3
1	8	3	7	6	2	5	9	4
2	4	8	6	5	3	9	7	1
6	1	7	9	2	4	3	5	8
3	9	5	1	8	7	4	2	6
8	3	2	5	1	6	7	4	9
4	6	1	2	7	9	8	3	5
5	7	9	3	4	8	6	1	2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MILITARY ADJUTANTS

A	I	Y	L	B	M	E	S	S	Ⓐ	N	N	S	R	D
R	T	N	D	E	A	L	S	Ⓑ	A	I	I	Y	O	R
S	E	T	F	S	C	O	M	Ⓜ	M	A	N	D	S	J
U	S	C	E	L	O	Ⓨ	E	M	T	L	A	T	A	F
C	P	S	R	N	U	L	S	E	R	V	E	M	T	
C	O	N	F	E	D	E	R	A	T	E	F	M	C	S
O	L	N	M	D	A	A	N	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
R	E	F	I	T	C	T	N	C	O	I	T	F	B	R
E	V	M	L	T	A	C	I	T	E	N	D	A	L	E
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Solution: 8 letters

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Alde, Army, Assembly, Attendant, Bands, Bugle, Bulletin, Call, Captain, Combat, Commands, Confederate, Connect, Contact, Deals, Develops, Drafts, Eases, Execute, Farewell, Fatal, Find, Fulfill, Hail, Help, Influence, Interaction, Liaison, Lifeblood, Links, Main, Major, Middleman, Military, Morale, Recreation, Reports, Serve, Skill, Succor, System

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Red Sox top Twins in snowy game delayed after Minn. shooting



MINNEAPO-
LIS (AP)—

Rafael Devers homered for the fourth straight game and the streaking Boston Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 4-2 on a snowy Tuesday in a series opener moved back following the fatal police shooting of a Black man in a nearby suburb.

Hunter Renfroe hit a solo homer and Bobby Dalbec added a pair of RBI doubles as Boston won its seventh in a row after losing its first three games of the season.

Monday's game was postponed due to safety and sensitivity concerns in the Twin Cities after the police shooting a day earlier of Daunte Wright during a traffic stop. The Twins held a moment of silence for Wright prior to Tuesday's game.

Snow flurries fell for most of the game and it was 33 degrees for the first pitch. That made for the third-coldest start at Target Field, the record being 27 degrees on April 7, 2018.

Adam Ottavino (1-0) earned the win with a scoreless inning of relief. Matt Barnes pitched a perfect ninth for his first save of the season.

Randy Dobnak (0-2) took the loss for Minnesota, which has lost three in a row.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 0

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts homered and Trevor Bauer pitched seven innings of one-hit ball in both veterans' first home game in front of their new fans, propelling Los Angeles over Colorado.

Corey Seager and Chris Taylor hit back-to-back homers in the first inning, while Max Muncy homered and drove in two runs for the defending World Series champions. The major league-leading Dodgers (9-2) remained unbeaten in Chavez Ravine this season with another dominant performance in their ninth victory in 10 games.

Bauer (2-0) was outstanding in his first start at Dodger Stadium since signing with his hometown team in February. Colorado's only hit was an infield single by Garrett Hampson in the third, and Bauer issued just two walks with nine strikeouts.

Marlins 14, Braves 8

In Atlanta, Adam Duvall drove in seven runs against his former teammates with four hits, including two home runs, and Miami beat Max Fried and Atlanta.

Duvall's two-run double during a four-run fourth inning gave Miami the lead. He hit his first homer of the game in the third inning and added a three-run shot in the seventh. Duvall tied a Marlins record

by becoming the sixth player to drive in seven.

Fried (0-1) gave up eight runs, seven earned, and nine hits in four innings.

Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run homer off Pablo López, and Ozzie Albies added another homer to give Atlanta a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

Giants 7, Reds 6

In San Francisco, Wilmer Flores' tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh held up in a strange, back-and-forth game that featured four two-run homers in the first inning alone, and San Francisco beat Cincinnati.

Austin Slater put the Giants ahead on an RBI triple in the sixth following three home runs by San Francisco. That lead didn't last: Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford and second baseman Tommy La Stella collided trying to chase down pinch-hitter Alex Blandino's fly in shallow center in the seventh, and the ball fell to the grass for a single as the Reds scored the tying run to make it 6-6.

The teams were tied at 4 after the first inning on a pair of two-run homers by each club. Joey Votto connected off former Reds right-hander Kevin Gausman for his second homer in two nights.

Mike Moustakas then added his two-run homer, sending the drive into the water of McCovey Cove beyond the right field arcade to give Cincinnati a splash-hit homer for the second straight game.

Indians 2, White Sox 0

In Chicago, AL Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber pitched three-hit ball over nine innings while Lucas Giolito nearly matched him before Cleveland broke through in the 10th to beat Chicago.

Bieber (1-1) struck out 11 and has fanned 35 in his first three starts of the season for the second straight year.

Giolito also allowed only three hits and fanned eight. He was pulled after issuing his second walk to begin the eighth inning.

Cubs 3, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Willson Contreras struck back after getting plunked again by Milwaukee, hitting a two-run homer in the eighth inning and enjoying his trip around the bases as Chicago rallied.

Contreras, who has already been hit by a pitch from the Brewers three times this season, got his revenge when he hit a towering drive to left-center off Brent Suter (0-1).

Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff hit Contreras in the fourth inning. When Woodruff was at the plate in the fifth inning, Cubs reliever Ryan Te-



Boston Red Sox celebrate a 4-2 win over the Minnesota Twins in a baseball game Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at Target Field in Minneapolis. In the background is a sign about George Floyd.

rie followed with a three-run homer off Kevin Ginkel. Brown led off the eighth with his homer off Anthony Swarzak (0-1) and Matt Chapman's run-scoring triple off the wall in the ninth made it 7-5.

Yusmeiro Petit (3-0) got the final out in the seventh inning and Lou Trivino worked around a walk in the ninth for his first save.

Pirates 8, Padres 4

In Pittsburgh, Jacob Stallings had three hits and three RBIs, and Pittsburgh chased Blake Snell in the first inning before beating San Diego.

The game lasted 4 hours, 7 minutes, and included 17 walks, seven hit batters and 27 runners left on base.

Stallings hit a two-run double off the top of the left-field fence in the first inning, then added an RBI single in the second.

San Diego had its four-game winning streak end as Snell retired just two of the eight batters he faced.

Cardinals 14, Nationals 3

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado, Paul Goldschmidt and Matt Carpenter all homered off Stephen Strasburg and St. Louis hammered Washington.

Jack Flaherty (2-0) allowed one run on three hits with six strikeouts in five innings as St. Louis snapped a three-game losing streak.

Strasburg (0-1) was racked for eight runs — seven earned — on eight hits and five walks, two of them intentional. The 2019 World Series MVP was pulled after allowing all three batters he faced in the fifth to reach base, leading to a nine-run inning by the Cardinals.

Royals 3, Angels 2

In Kansas City, Mo., catcher Salvador Perez picked David Fletcher off third with the bases loaded for the final out in the ninth inning, helping Kansas City beat Shohei Ohtani and Los Angeles.

Danny Duffy pitched one-run ball over six innings, and Perez had two hits and an RBI.

Ohtani showed off impressive speed on an infield single in the first and added a 431-foot homer to right field in the fifth.

Duffy (2-0) went six frames for a second straight outing, allowing eight hits and six strikeouts. Greg Holland completed a four-out save for his first of the season.

pera threw behind him. Woodruff and Tepera exchanged words afterward.

Tigers 8, Astros 2

In Houston, Wilson Ramos hit two home runs and Renato Núñez and rookie Akil Baddoo each homered for the second straight game as Detroit slugged its way to a second straight win over Houston.

Nomar Mazara also homered to give the Tigers a season-high five long balls.

The Tigers spoiled the Astros debut of Jake Odorizzi (0-1). Detroit tagged him for seven hits and five runs, including three homers, in 3 1/3 innings to hand the Astros their fourth consecutive loss after a 6-1 start.

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 3

In Dunedin, Fla., Hyun Jin Ryu cruised into the seventh inning, Marcus Semien and Rowdy Tellez homered, and Toronto beat New York.

Ryu (1-1) allowed only an unearned run over 6 2/3 innings, striking out seven and limiting the Yankees to four hits and a walk.

Yankees center fielder Aaron Hicks was back in the lineup and went 3 for 4 after getting permission from manager Aaron Boone to sit out Monday's game following the police shooting of a Black man, Daunte Wright, in Minnesota.

Josh Palacios had a two-run single in the second and Randal Grichuk hit a third-inning sacrifice fly off Jameson Taillon (0-1).

Mariners 4, Orioles 3, 8 innnings, 1st game

In Baltimore, Kyle Seager hit an RBI double in the eighth and Seattle won its third extra-inning game in as many tries this season, beating Baltimore in the first game of a doubleheader.

Seager, who has reached

base in nine of his last 10 plate appearances, laced a one-out double to center off Tanner Scott (0-1). That scored Mitch Haniger, who opened the extra frame as the automatic runner on second base.

Seattle won its third in a row overall. The Orioles have dropped four straight and six of seven.

Orioles 7, Mariners 6, 2nd game

In Baltimore, Ramón Urías hit a game-ending single with two outs in the seventh inning and Baltimore split a doubleheader with mistake-prone Seattle.

César Valdez (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh for Baltimore, which had lost four in a row and six of seven. Seattle's three-game winning streak was halted.

Casey Sadler (0-1) retired the first two batters in the seventh before walking Maikel Franco. The reliever then misplayed Ryan McKenna's grounder for an error and followed by throwing a wild pitch.

Urías singled up the middle to win it for Baltimore, which scored five unearned runs in the nightcap.

Mets 4, Phillies 0, 2nd game

In New York, Pete Alonso and Jonathan Villar each hit an RBI single in the eighth inning to give New York the win over Philadelphia in the first game of their doubleheader.

Dominic Smith socked an early two-run homer for the Mets, who took the opener of a four-game series between NL East rivals in extra innings.

With the Mets down a run, Alonso opened the bottom of the eighth with a sharp single off Héctor Neris (0-1) that scored placement runner Francisco Lindor from second. It was New York's first hit since the second inning.

Arizona's bullpen was sharp before unraveling in the seventh inning.

With the bases loaded, Villar lofted a full-count pitch to left-center over the head of left fielder Andrew McCutchen.

Mets 4, Phillies 0, 2nd game

In New York, Back on the mound two days after an abbreviated start, Marcus Stroman tossed six spotless innings and New York swept its doubleheader against Philadelphia.

Brandon Nimmo had three hits and three RBIs from the leadoff spot. Jonathan Villar followed up his game-winning single in the opener with a run-scoring double, and Stroman (2-0) outpitched Phillies ace Aaron Nola.

Stroman's outing Sunday against Miami lasted only nine pitches because the game was suspended due to rain.

Rangers 8, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Nick Solak and Charlie Culberson drove in three runs apiece, Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings and Texas beat Tampa Bay to end a season-high four-game losing streak.

Solak delivered the biggest blow in a four-run fourth-inning against Ryan Yarbrough (0-2), a double down the left-field line that cleared the bases.

Culberson finished the fourth with an RBI double, then pushed the lead to 8-2 with a two-run homer off Trevor Richards in the eighth.

Athletics 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Jed Lowrie hit a tying, three-run homer in the seventh inning, Seth Brown had a solo shot in the next frame and Oakland rallied from a five-run deficit to beat Arizona.

Arizona's bullpen was sharp before unraveling in the seventh inning.

Mark Canha made it 5-2 win an RBI single and Low-

Tatum scores 32, Celtics edge Trail Blazers for 4th straight



PORTRALD, Ore. (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 32 points, including a key 3-pointer in the final moments, and the Boston Celtics held off the Portland Trail Blazers 116-115 on Tuesday night to extend their winning streak to four games.

Jaylen Brown added 24 points and Kemba Walker had 21 for Boston, winners of six of their last seven games.

“We’re trending in the right direction,” Tatum said.

Damian Lillard had 28 points and 10 assists, and Carmelo Anthony had 25 points off the bench for Portland.

Tatum’s 3-pointer early in the final quarter put the Celtics up 99-91, their biggest lead of the game to that point. Anthony closed the gap for Portland with a jumper and a 3-pointer.

It appeared as if the Celtics were pulling away when Walker’s 3 put Boston up 107-99 with just over five minutes left, but Lillard’s 3-pointer got Portland within five points.

CJ McCollum’s jumper and a pair of free throws from Lillard narrowed it to 107-106. After Robert Williams III’s layup, Lillard’s 3 tied it at 109 with 2:03 left.

Williams’ tip kept the Celtics in front until McCollum’s 3 gave Portland a 112-111 lead with 1:01 to go.

Tatum made a pair of free throws before a step-back 3-pointer with 8.5 seconds appeared to seal it. Norman Powell hit a 3 for the Blazers with 5.4 seconds to go to close within 116-115, but Portland couldn’t catch up.

Tatum, who scored a career-high 53 points in a win last Friday over Minnesota and earned player of the week honors, scored 17 of his points in the third quarter.

The Blazers have lost five of their last seven games.

“We came up short tonight. No need to hang our head over this one,” Anthony said. “Tatum hit a great shot down the stretch. You tip your hat to him.”

Portland took a 37-28 lead midway through the opening half after Anthony’s 3-pointer. But Tatum’s 3 pulled the Celtics into a tie at 47, and Boston extended the lead to 55-49 on another 3 from Marcus Smart.

After Portland led at 60-57 at the half, it was tight throughout most of the third quarter. Tatum’s 3 put Boston ahead 82-80, but Anthony answered with a jumper for Portland before Enes Kanter added a rim-shaking dunk and free throw against his former team.

The Blazers’ lead was short-lived and Boston went into the final quarter with a 92-87 advantage.

“I don’t think its brain



waved to the screaming Phoenix Suns’ fans as he trotted off the court postgame.

Usually, those cheers are reserved for All-Stars like Devin Booker or Chris Paul. On this night, the praise belonged to the backups.

Payne scored 14 points and dished seven assists to lead a Phoenix bench that poured in 65 points, and the Suns rolled to a 106-86 victory over the Miami Heat.

Payne banked a layup high off the glass with less than a second left to give the Suns an 83-72 lead heading into the fourth. It was part of a big game for several Suns’ reserves, which was the biggest reason they were able to slowly pull away from the Heat in the second half.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum reacts as the buzzer sounds and the Celtics defeat the Portland Trail Blazers in an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

after raw emotion from a fatal police shooting of a local Black man was too strong to play.

Kevin Durant and the Brooklyn Nets made quick work of the Timberwolves, even if focus was harder to come by than usual.

Durant scored 31 points on 11-for-15 shooting in his most productive performance in 2 1/2 months, as the Brooklyn Nets blew out the Minnesota Timberwolves 127-97 on Tuesday afternoon.

Jazz 106, Thunder 96

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic knew the Jazz would look to him to take a leading role with three of Utah’s primary players out.

Bogdanovic scored 23 points and Donovan Mitchell added 22 as the Utah Jazz beat the struggling Oklahoma City Thunder 106-96 on Tuesday night.

“We had guys out on this back-to-back, so we’re ran way more sets of fences for me so I was able to get to the basket and draw the fouls,” Bogdanovic said.

Luguentz Dort scored career-high 42 points and Moses Brown had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Thunder, who have lost seven in a row and 10 of 11.

Bogdanovic, who scored a season-high 33 points in his last game, left his familiar spot on the perimeter and repeatedly took the ball to the basket. He finished with a season-high 10-for-10 shooting from the free throw line.

Lakers 101, Hornets 93

In Charlotte, N.C., Frank Vogel isn’t complaining about the Los Angeles Lakers finishing a seven-game road trip with a 4-3 record.

“I think all of our guys are really fatigued right now,” the Lakers’ second-year head coach said. “We are stretched really thin with all of the injuries and the compact schedule. To come out of it 4-3 on this stretch, we feel good about that.”

Kyle Kuzma scored 24 points, and the Lakers held on for a hard-fought 101-93 win against a Charlotte Hornets team missing five of its top six scorers on Tuesday night.

Dennis Schroder added 19 points and Andre Drummond chipped in with 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who’ll return home to face the Boston Celtics on Thursday with fans allowed in the Staples Center.

surgery. We’ve got guys that have now played a little bit together, are getting in a rhythm together,” Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. “It’s more about a mindset of getting downhill and making the right play for yourself or your teammate. When Smart, Jaylen, Jayson, Kemba are all out there, of course we’re gonna look a little different.”

The Celtics were coming off a 105-87 victory over the Nuggets on Sunday that snapped Denver’s eight-game winning streak.

Celtics rookie guard Payton Pritchard grew up in the Portland area and played for Oregon. But because of coronavi-

Hawks 107, Raptors 103

In Tampa, Fla., Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 23 points, Clint Capela added 19 points and 21 rebounds, and the short-handed Atlanta Hawks beat the Toronto Raptors 107-103 on Tuesday night for their seventh win in eight games.

“Our depth is something we talked about when the season started, and now it’s really showing,” said Kevin Huerter, who scored 14 of his 17 points in the first half for Atlanta. “We’re going into every game

thinking we can win no matter who goes out on the court.”

Brandon Goodwin added 18 points for the Hawks, who were missing seven injured players including Trae Young, who has sat out two games with a left calf contusion after a 42-point, nine-assist performance against Chicago on Friday night.

Pascal Siakam led the Raptors with 30 points, six rebounds and seven assists, and rookie Malachi Flynn scored 22 points.

Suns 106, Heat 86

In Phoenix, Cam Payne was the man who got the curtain call on Tuesday night. The backup guard sheepishly grinned and

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who goes out on the court.”

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Hoskins, Myers top Mt. Tapochau 5K

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marshall Hoskins and Denise Myers topped the men's and women's division of the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.3 up to Mt. Tapochau last Friday.

Hoskins was the only runner to finish the lung-busting trek up to Saipan's highest peak under 30 minutes as he achieved the feat in 26:43.

The 27-year-old from Pennsylvania said it was an achievement to win the run up to Mt. Tapochau.

"Tapochau is one of the more difficult runs on island since you're using certain muscles much more than you normally would, constantly. Both flat ground and uphill running have their difficulties. Personally, I like uphill since it can be a bit more fun to plan your steps. It just takes a different approach," he said.

Saipan Community School teacher and ordained pastor Mat Murphy came in second with a time of 30:18, while completing the Top 3 was Leith Pool who checked in at 30:53.

In the women's division, Myers took all comers and prevailed in an excellent time of 33:45. Saipan International School student Tiana Cabrera came in second less than a minute after Myers with her 34:29,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Mat Murphy, Marshall Hoskins, and Leith Pool after completing the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.3 up to Mt. Tapochau last Friday.

while Ayano Braxton rounded out the Top 3 for the women's



tough psychologically because it's all up hill, so it never feels like there is a break, but lucky for me Tiana started off fast so I was able to use her in front of me as motivation to keep pushing," the Perry, Missouri native said.

A total of 36 runners took on the challenge of the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.3.

The 5K run up to Mt. Tapochau is the third in the Run Saipan Underground 5K series. It follows the Beach Road

pathway run (from the Garapan Fishing Base) last February and the Marpi run (from the Mariana Resort & Spa) last March. The next Run Saipan Underground 5K series is the Beach Road pathway run (from the Oleai Bar & Grill) in May and the Banzai Cliff run in June, according to Run Saipan Underground 5K coordinator Edward Jr. Dela Cruz.

He earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the Run Saipan Underground 5K series provides a fun challenge for the com-

unity to look forward to every year at no cost.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Composite photo shows, from left, Denise Myers, Tiana Cabrera, and Ayana Braxton in action during the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.3 up to Mt. Tapochau last Friday.

He added that the Run Saipan Underground 5K series was inspired by the Saipan International School's Run the Marianas. "The Underground 5K series are always free entry and made with the intention for everyone to just come out run walk or jog for fun."

KAGMAN

From Page 20

sweep in the U12 with Dela Cruz topping the age group with a time of 10:04 followed by teammates Blanco and Arriola, who came in at 10:26 and 10:51, respectively.

In the 12U, Faith Arriola conquered the course in 3:15, while Barbara Wang of ACS was the only other competitor in the age group with a time of 3:39.

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics. It continues today with Saipan Community School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Isla Montessori athletes on tap in the elementary division, while tomorrow will see the start of competition in the middle school and high school levels.



MARK RABAGO
Saipan International School's Windsor Gross in action in the long jump event of last Tuesday's start of the Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROLLERS

From Page 20

Ol'Aces' celebration proved short-lived though, as Rollers Black didn't panic and inbounded the ball and in a semi-fastbreak saw King set up from the right corner where he unleashed a 3-point bomb from what seemed like 25 feet that hit nothing but the bottom of the net to give his team a 53-50 lead.

The Stephen Curry-wanna-bee—he wears the Baby-faced

Assassin's familiar No. 30—followed up that trifecta with 45 seconds to go by rebounding a crucial Ol'Aces miss and then dribbled past half court before burying another cold-blooded 3-pointer from farther out to put the game out of reach with 27 ticks left on the game clock.

With the victory, the Rollers Black of coach Joe Diaz lived another day by erasing elimination round top-notcher Ol'Aces' twice-to-beat advantage in the finals. The two teams will square off again for

all the marbles on Saturday, April 17, 12:30pm still at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

King paced Rollers Black in the cardiac win with 22 points on top of 4 rebounds and three steals. Anthony Lahara ably backed him up by tossing 15 points of his own while also hauling down 4 boards and blocking 2 shots. Also finishing in double figures for Rollers Black was Leopoldo Naraja who wound up contributing 12 points, 4 rebounds, and an assist.

Despite the sorry loss, Poole scored one apiece for the winless BSS.

Ol'Aces got an all-around game from Craig Padayao, who had 16 points, 11 rebounds, 2 steals, and a block. Atan was the only other double-figure scorer for Ol'Aces with 15 markers. He also grabbed 3 rebounds, dished out twice, and stole the ball once.

Rollers Black 56—King 22, Lahara 15, Naraja 12, Claridados 3, Pelisamen 2, Diaz 2.

Ol'Aces 50—Padayao 16, Atan 15, Fiden 4, Basa 4, Wabol 3, Lucas 2.

KOBLERVILLE

From Page 20

goals apiece for the Umangs, who made it to the finals in the 2018-2019 season, but lost a close match to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 2-3.

Akeen Edvalson had a pair of goals on a losing effort for BSS, while Evan Poole chipped in one.

After easing past BSS, Koblerville-1 returned to the pitch last Tuesday and had a fitting follow up on its opening day win following an 8-2 triumph over Isla Montessori. Navarro remained on target for the Umangs, as he made a hat-trick in their second win and teamed up with Bri Echalico in handing Koblerville-1 the easy win. Echalico also

delivered three goals, while the Umangs' two other goals came from Andrei Tenorio.

Isla Montessori drew its two goals from siblings Anya and Noah Lewis.

SIS-1 earlier in the opening week of the league defeated Isla Montessori, 3-1. Finn Altizer towed the Geckos to victory after scoring all three goals of the team. Georgia Baetge posted the lone goal for Isla Montessori.

SIS-1 went on to make it back-to-back following a 4-2 win over BSS last Tuesday for a share of Group B lead with Koblerville-1.

This time, the Geckos banked on Bori Chang to top BSS, as the striker hit three goals in SIS-1's second victory. Altizer contributed one goal, while Edvalson and

Poole scored one apiece for the winless BSS.

GROUP A Koblerville-2 5, WSR 3

Koblerville-2 is in solo first place in the group after getting its second win in as many games following a victory over WSR last Tuesday.

Jose Maratita starred in the Umangs' win No. 2 after recording all the team's five goals. Aldric Jon Antonio made two goals for WSR, while Alyssa Borlongan added one.

Before beating WSR, Koblerville-2 triumphed in its second debut against Saipan Community School last Thursday, 5-1. Three difference players scored for the Umangs with Maratita and Kapua Hocog getting two goals each and Jireh Guilas

bagging one.

SCS 3, SIS-2 1

Saipan Community School quickly bounced back from its loss in the opener after outclassing SIS-2 last Tuesday.

Richard Zhao, Jose Sablan, and Anne Lee found the back of the net to put SCS in the win column, while SIS-2 drew its lone goal from Landon Pudney.

SIS-2 6, WSR 2

Before bowing to SCS, SIS-2 won its first match of the season after dominating WSR last Thursday.

Jude Rayphand lifted the Geckos to victory with his four goals and drew help from Quido Jambor, who contributed two goals. WSR's pair of goals were courtesy of Jiro Quindosa and Antonio.



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Saipan Tribune Sports

Hoskins, Myers top Mt. Tapochau 5K

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20 THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Koblerville, SIS-1 unbeaten



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School and Saipan International School-1 are off to a strong start in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League.

Koblerville-1 and 2 won in Koblerville, while SIS-1 also earned a 2-0 mark early into the competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
William S. Reyes Elementary School's Jiro Quindoa, right, takes a shot in front of Saipan International School-2 goalie Theo Joab during the Group A game in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

After calling off last season's event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ISL is back this year with Koblerville-1 kicking off action in the elementary division with a 7-3 victory over



Brilliant Star School in the Group B match last Thursday. Jerz Navarro, Sean Billimon, and John Surima scored two

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Koblerville Elementary School-1 player, right, dribbles away from two Brilliant Star School defenders during the Group B game in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Rollers Black forces rubber match in U17

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Steve King made two straight triples in the last 45 seconds to lead Rollers Black to a pulsating 56-50 win against Ol'Aces in the U17 championship game of the Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Needing to win the game to force a winner-take-all



Game 2 in the finals, Rollers Black led majority of the game until a late rally by Ol'Aces almost forced overtime.

With Rollers Black leading by 3 points, 50-47, with less than a minute to go in the game, Ol'Aces guard Airson Atan rose up from a confusing half-court set and pulled up from rainbow country and tied the score.

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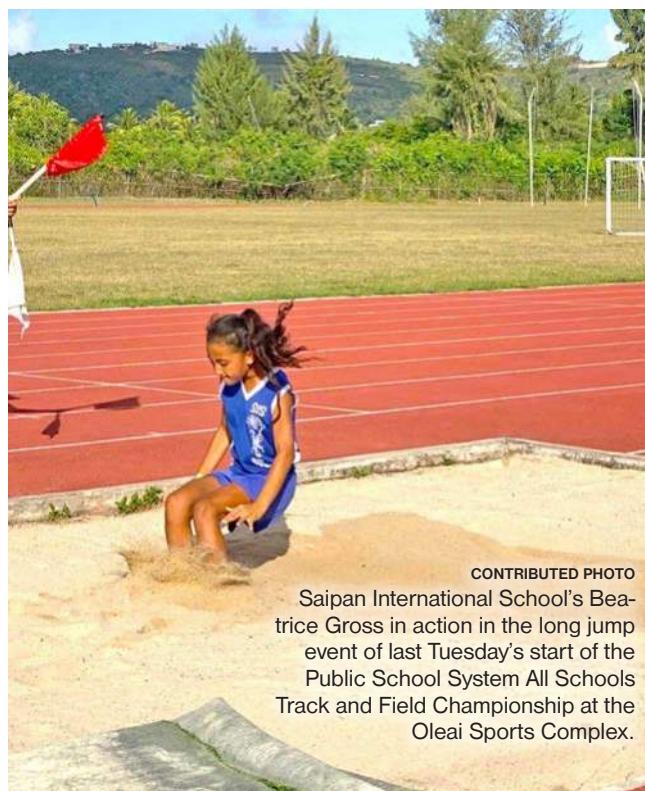


MARK RABAGO

Rollers Black's Steve King pulls up from 3-point territory against the outstretched hand of Ol'Aces' Matthew Lucas in Game 1 of the U17 championship of the Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Kagman tops 2 age groups in long jump

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Early returns in the long jump competition of the Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship last Tuesday saw Kagman Elementary School win two of the four age groups in the track and field event at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the 9U boys, Kagman's Jayvon Dela Cruz jumped the farthest with a leap 2.9m, followed by Saipan International School teammates Jude Rayphand's 2.7m and Craver Gross' 2.69m.

Kagman also won the 12U girls with Paulani Dela Cruz registering a 3.42m jump. Teammate Page Blanco finished second in the age group with a leap of 3.35m followed by SIS' Faith Arriola's 3.07m.

Brilliant Star School's

Aiden Camacho won the 12U boys with his 3.65m. Agape Christian School's Danny Cheng finished second with his 3.45m, while Kagman's Tatum Jones came in third with his 3.1m.

It was a sisters act in the 9U girls with Beatrice and Windsor Gross of SIS finishing 1-2 with jumps of 3.45m and 2.86, respectively. Leilani Ruzsala completed a sweep by the As Lito school with her jump of 2.75m.

In the run events, SIS girls won half of the events. In the 60m sprint, Beatrice Gross finished first with a time of 11:13, followed by sister Windsor's 11:99 and Ruzsala's 12:27.

Kagman duplicated SIS'

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